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Asia-Pacific Trade Center in Osaka Described

*OWI1304062894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT
13 Apr 94*

[Text] Osaka, April 13 KYODO—The Asia-Pacific trade center, the first comprehensive wholesale facility for imported goods in Japan, will open in Osaka Thursday [14 April]. The 12-story center, with a total floor space of 335,000 square meters, was completed by business groups and enterprises at a cost of about 150 billion yen.

Center officials said they plan to develop the facility into a major distribution center in Asia, which will contribute to reducing Japan's huge trade surplus.

A total of 108 companies from Asian countries have rented space for business outlets at the center, which can accommodate as many as 400 stores, the officials said.

Foreign firms will be offered sales outlets at a discount rate and have access to various services to facilitate their entry into the Japanese market, they said.

The officials said only 58 Japanese companies will maintain offices at the center because more than 200 firms have canceled contracts to rent office space because of the protracted recession.

ASEAN Members Agree To More Active World Role

*BK1404053694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Apr 94 pp 13, 20*

[By Peter Mytri Ungphakon]

[Text] Marrakech—Thailand and other members of ASEAN have agreed to play a substantially more active role in the new world trade system that will emerge from the Uruguay Round agreements that are due to be signed tomorrow.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak says he is going to propose that Thailand chairs the agricultural committee of the new World Trade Organisation [WTO] due to be established on January 1. This would put Thailand and its allies in the 14-nation Cairns Group in a position to influence the agenda of a committee handling one of the more contentious issues facing the new organisation.

And at an informal meeting of ASEAN economic ministers on Tuesday, Singapore received support from fellow-members in its bid to host the first WTO ministerial meeting. These ministerial meetings, to be held every two years, will be the forum for ultimate control of the new organisation created by the Uruguay Round of world trade talks that concludes formally in Marrakech this week.

Both bids are still at a formative stage and in Thailand's case no formal discussions have yet taken place with an other country. So there has been no reaction so far from

others among the more than 100 countries attending this week's Uruguay Round meeting.

The process of setting up the WTO will only begin today when a preparatory committee is due to be appointed.

So far, the only ministerial meetings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—the forerunner of the WTO—that have been held outside Switzerland have been those that are part of a round of trade negotiations. All other routine GATT ministerial meetings have been held in Geneva.

Singapore's bid to hold the 1996 WTO meeting would therefore set a new precedent.

Unconfirmed reports say China also wants to host the 1996 meeting. It hopes also to be granted readmission to the GATT system so that it can be a founding member of the WTO. China helped to found GATT, but its membership lapsed following the communist takeover.

The WTO agricultural committee that Thailand hopes to chair will initially be responsible for monitoring how the Uruguay Round's 125 participants implement the round's agreement on reducing subsidies and lowering trade barriers in farm trade.

This is an issue that has caused some of the biggest controversies throughout the seven years of the Uruguay Round.

Dr Suphachai said the idea of Thailand's candidature came from two meetings on Tuesday: the informal meeting of ASEAN economic ministers where he proposed that Thailand should be ASEAN's spokesman on agriculture in the WTO, and a bilateral meeting with Australian trade minister Bob McMullen who said the committee's chairman should come from the Cairns Group.

Thai officials say that out of the Cairns Group's 14 members, one from ASEAN could prove to be the most acceptable to the major participants in the sometimes bitter agricultural negotiations. And among the four ASEAN countries that are also in the Cairns Group—Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines—Thailand has been by far the most active in the farm trade talks.

The United States, which has been pressing for sharp cuts in subsidies and protectionist trade barriers, is likely to support anyone from the Cairns Group because the group shares that objective, the officials say.

The European Union has resisted radical reform and could find a country from ASEAN, which has tended to take a more moderate position in the Cairns Group, more acceptable, they say.

The officials believe that Australia, chairman of the Cairns Group, will not want simultaneously to chair the

WTO committee, and that the group's five Latin American countries could be too aggressively critical of agricultural protectionism to be acceptable to the European Union.

The five—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay—twice walked out of Uruguay Round ministerial meetings in protest against the failure of the United States and European Union to reach agreement on agriculture.

Dr Suphachai said he had not yet put forward the idea to any other country. But he has already shown a keenness for Thailand to assert itself in this issue, himself playing a particularly active part in Cairns Group affairs since his appointment as deputy prime minister in 1992.

Chairing a WTO committee could require a substantial bureaucratic change for Thailand since the country's representative would have to be senior, probably with the rank of ambassador. The choice facing the Government would be to have a diplomat take the position, or a trade specialist.

At present Thailand's ambassador to Geneva is a Foreign Ministry diplomat whose duties cover a wide range of subjects handled by the various UN agencies there, ranging from human rights and disarmament to labour and trade.

Thai trade officials are discussing the possibility of appointing an experienced trade negotiator as ambassador either in place of the present diplomat, or preferably as a second ambassador assigned specifically to GATT or the WTO. They point out that more than half the countries represented in Geneva have ambassadors from economic ministries, some as their countries' sole envoys in the city.

The question of whether the new WTO should link trade concessions with the observance of international standards of labour rights has turned out to be one of the most controversial issues in the main Marrakech meeting, with virtually all ministers referring to it in their formal statements.

Broadly, developing countries opposed the move which is proposed by the United States and France, and is largely supported by developed countries. Dr Suphachai said that in discussions with the Australians, he was told that Canberra would not actively promote the idea, but that Canberra would not oppose it either because the Australian governing party is Labor.

But the bulk of attention in Marrakech this week has turned to the many issues being discussed in side meetings. In the main conference room, more than 100 ministers are scheduled to plough through their formal statements over a scheduled period of almost four days, culminating in tomorrow's signing ceremony.

In addition to discussions with ASEAN and Australia, Dr Suphachai has also been involved in breakfast and

lunch meetings yesterday of ministers from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group and the Cairns Group.

Members of the Cairns Group agree that the group should continue in existence so that the implementation of the Uruguay Round agricultural deal can be monitored.

But differences are emerging within the group over a Latin American proposal that the group be reorganised so that the chairmanship rotates instead of remaining with Australia. The Latin Americans also want to expand the group's membership to other agricultural exporting countries.

Brazil and Argentina in particular are thought to be sufficiently dissatisfied with the Uruguay Round's compromise on agriculture to seek a more aggressive chairmanship.

However, Dr Suphachai said Thailand preferred to keep Australia as chairman.

The group is due to meet formally in Uruguay next month. Discussions here in Marrakech this week have served as preparation.

Dr Suphachai was also scheduled to meet delegation heads from Italy, China, Hungary and the Czech Republic during this week.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon, who is also in the Thai delegation, has been meeting counterparts from Hong Kong and India.

Bigger players on the world trade scene have been discussing more serious issues. The United States and European Union have been trying to narrow their differences on commitments related to a new deal on government purchases due to be signed tomorrow by 20-30 countries; and the United States and Japan have been tackling the US demand for greater access to the Japanese market.

'Political Will' Urged To Solve Refugee Crisis

*OW1804090494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT
18 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The top UN official for refugees called Monday [18 April] for "political will" to effectively tackle the humanitarian crises resulting from increasing flows of refugees worldwide.

"There is no substitute for the political will to find a solution," UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata told participants at a symposium at the UN University in Tokyo.

The number of people fleeing from poverty, natural disasters, civil war and oppression has jumped 10-fold over the last 20 years to some 20 million worldwide, she said. Another 25 million are displaced within their own countries.

According to UN estimates, conflicts and disasters will have driven some 100 million people from their homes by the turn of the century.

"A humanitarian strategy of preparedness, prevention and solution demands a greater commitment to preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts within countries to diffuse political violence and ethnic tensions," Ogata said.

She noted, though, that prevention is the "most important, but also most difficult" measure, as the United Nations has only limited powers to interfere in the domestic affairs of member states.

"International monitoring of national human rights is extremely difficult and we are still at a very, very limited scale today," Ogata said.

Large-scale UN operations like in Mozambique and Cambodia, where tens of thousands of peacekeepers and humanitarian staff were involved in settling the legacy of civil wars, will remain the exception, Ogata said.

"More attention should be given to smaller, but carefully balanced operations combining humanitarian, political and military components such as in Tajikistan," she said.

Given that most refugees do not want to stay in their host countries, while host countries for their part cannot absorb large numbers of refugees, Ogata said that the concept of "temporary protection" as practiced with refugees from former Yugoslavia should be promoted.

Such temporary refuge is "still at the developing stage of refugee law" and takes the form of different arrangements in various countries, but could help overcome many governments' reluctance to accept refugees.

Those returning to their countries must be given security guarantees and be offered opportunities to make a living, if repatriation is to prove successful, she said.

Ogata said she expects that extensive media coverage of humanitarian crises will further increase public pressure on governments to provide humanitarian aid, adding that the UNHCR is short of funds "all the time."

She warned, however, of the risk "that humanitarian action could become a camouflage for political inaction."

Ogata at Commission on Global Governance Meeting

OW2104104294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—The United Nations' top official for refugees said Thursday that Bosnian

Serbs must be included in ongoing peace negotiations to entice them to halt their shelling of Muslim towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata said, "I think the real peace (in Bosnia-Herzegovina) will come only after the Serbs are brought into the peace process."

She was referring to UN-brokered negotiations between Bosnia's Muslim government and Bosnian Croats. "The Serbs have been left out of the peace process and this is why the difficulties still exist," said Ogata, who is a former professor of international politics at Sophia University in Tokyo.

Neither UN-authorized NATO air strikes nor warnings and pleas from the West have deterred the Serbs from further encroaching on Muslim-dominated territory in the former Yugoslavia.

"The situation is very, very serious and the United Nations is facing a very critical point," Ogata said.

In their latest offensive Bosnian Serbian forces attacked and almost overran the town of Gorazde, one of the six UN-designated safety zones.

Ogata said the last UN convoy with food and other humanitarian aid has reached the town, where some 60,000 refugees have been trapped on March 22.

She said Gorazde-based UN staff is "crying for help" for the besieged town, which sustained one of the worst poundings by Serbian artillery Wednesday that damaged a hospital and a red cross refugee center. However, she said the UNHCR will not ask for air drops of relief goods because the casualty toll would increase as people leave their shelters to gather the goods.

Nearly 350 people have died and more than 1,000 have been wounded in the three-week assault on Gorazde.

Ogata said there might be a slight chance for "a little cease-fire" if the Serbian forces stick to their promise to let through to Gorazde a UN convoy with 100 peacekeepers and 41 doctors delivering medical supplies Thursday. She said she was not able to confirm whether the convoy was on its way.

Noting that cease-fire agreements have "come and gone," Ogata said at the moment, "there is nothing that would make me feel optimistic" about reaching a lasting armistice.

Ogata was in Tokyo to attend a three-day meeting, ended Thursday, of the Commission on Global Governance, an independent think tank preparing proposals for strengthening the UN.

Japan**Ministry Urges Talks on 'Objective Criteria'**

OW2104100494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan and the United States should hold preliminary negotiations on "objective criteria" for gauging foreign penetration of Japanese markets before resuming bilateral "framework" trade talks, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday [21 April]. Koichiro Matsuura, former deputy foreign minister, made the remark at a lecture in Tokyo.

The framework talks have been stalemated since the Feb. 11 breakdown of the Japan-U.S. summit over objective criteria.

Matsuura, commenting on the Group of Seven (G-7) summit scheduled to open July 8, forecast that Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's successor is likely to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton immediately before the summit.

Regarding the April 15 talks in Marrakech, Morocco, between Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, Matsuura said Kantor's comments seem to show "serious U.S. intentions" to settle the framework talks.

70 Percent Say U.S. 'Most Important Country'

OW2104091694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Nearly 70 percent of Japanese and 50 percent of South Koreans polled say the United States is the most important country in international relations, a survey jointly conducted by Japanese and South Korean think tanks said Thursday [21 April]. Both the Japanese and South Koreans said Japan is the second most important country, according to the poll, conducted last October among 300 people in Tokyo and 300 people in Seoul, all aged 25 to 45.

The survey was jointly carried out by the Dentsu Institute for Human Studies, affiliated with the Japanese advertising agency Dentsu Inc., and the Hanbek Foundation, South Korea's leading private think tank. It showed how citizens in the two countries view each other in such fields as politics, economy, society, culture, corporations and human relations.

Regarding a question on what was considered South Korea's most famous company in Japan, 12 percent of the Japanese said "Hyundai," followed by "Samsung" at 9 percent and "Lotte" at 8 percent.

Meanwhile, 40 percent of the South Koreans said "Sony" when asked to choose the most famous Japanese firm in South Korea, with 12 percent opting for "Mitsubishi" and 4 percent each selecting "Toyota" and "Honda," the survey said.

The survey also asked, "Would you do overtime work even on a wedding anniversary day?" Fifty percent of the Japanese said they would stay at the office rather than go home, while 50 percent of the South Koreans answered, "It depends on the situation."

Regarding AIDS as a social issue, 88 percent of the Japanese and 64 percent of the South Koreans said it is "serious."

The survey was released for a symposium held Thursday in Tokyo titled, "The Outlook for 2005 in East Asia."

Ten panelists from Japan, South Korea and China took part, including Heita Kawakatsu, a professor at Waseda University and Kim Yong-wun, president of Hanyang University of South Korea.

Perry Offered DPRK Sanction Legislative Action

OW2104150594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Kazuo Aichi offered Thursday [21 March] to take legislative action if the United Nations adopts economic sanctions against North Korea over its rejection of full international inspections of its nuclear facilities, Japanese officials said. Aichi told U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, however, that the action will be within the framework of the pacifist Constitution which bars the country from resorting to the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

The defense ministers of Japan and the United States agreed that the U.N. Security Council will respond if diplomatic efforts fail to settle the North Korean nuclear issue.

Perry arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day from Seoul for a two-day visit to Japan. He will meet Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday.

Firm Suspected of Illegal Remittances to DPRK

OW1904042494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Kobe, April 19 KYODO—Police searched the office of a Japanese trader Tuesday [19 April] on suspicion that it illegally remitted 118,860 dollars to the banking account of a North Korean trading house based in Pyongyang. The trading company, Mitaka Boeki, allegedly contravened a requirement under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law to report to the finance minister any overseas remittance of money exceeding 5 million yen.

Investigators suspect the company fabricated a contract document regarding the import of North Korean marine products to make the banking remittance look legal, police said.

Police said they suspect the Kobe-based trader also exported 50 used cars worth 255,000 dollars to North

Korea without obtaining the required permission from the prefectural public safety commission.

Remittances of money from pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan to North Korea have come under scrutiny in connection with allegations that Pyongyang is trying to develop nuclear weapons. Some U.S. Congress members and government officials have been urging Japan to regulate the flow of money which the Japanese Cabinet Information Research Office reportedly estimates at up to 200 billion yen a year.

Earlier this year, police raided another Japanese trading company on suspicion that they exported to North Korea high-technology equipment capable of being used for military purposes.

The Yokohama-based trading house was searched on January 14 on suspicion that it exported a spectrum analyzer that could be used to boost the target-hitting accuracy of the Nodong-1 missiles Pyongyang test-fired in the Sea of Japan last year. Police arrested the president of the company, Masahiko Kondo, on the day and sent papers to the prosecutors on March 30.

Pro-Seoul Korean Organization Changes Name

OW1904072994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—A pro-Seoul Korean residents' organization in Japan said Thursday [21 April] it has changed its official Japanese name to delete any suggestion that members are only temporary residents of Japan.

The Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) said Wednesday's regular assembly has decided to drop the word "kyoryu," or "temporary stay," from its title since the Japanese word suggests that they are only in Japan for a short time or temporarily. "We want to make clear our intention that we are permanent residents of Japan, so the characters for 'kyoryu,' which were a part of our name until today, were deleted," newly-elected Mindan Chairman Shin Yong-sang, 69, said at a press meeting Wednesday following the assembly.

Mindan's Information Office said Thursday that it had not yet considered whether the official English name of the group would be changed.

Shin also said that while Korean residents of Japan pay taxes, they have no political rights, adding "our rights and responsibilities are not equal." He added that for the sake of Japan's internationalization, Mindan planned to campaign extensively in favor of Japan's foreign residents being given the right to vote.

Many of Mindan's 450,000 members were born and raised in Japan but are still considered foreign residents.

At the end of World War II, there were an estimated two million Koreans in Japan, most forcibly brought in during the 1910 to 1945 colonial period to labor in factories and mines.

Although many were later repatriated, others stayed on and today some 700,000 Koreans, including descendants of those forcibly brought in, currently live in Japan.

Police Arrest Suspected PRC Alien Smugglers

OW1904073394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0648 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Tokyo police and immigration authorities arrested five Chinese Tuesday [19 April] for allegedly assisting some 150 compatriots looking for work in Japan to sneak into the country in February and March.

Police also arrested six more Chinese for allegedly trying to sneak in Japan. All were arrested for suspected violations of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law.

Tokyo immigration authorities are holding a total of 14 Chinese suspected of being involved in the large-scale illegal entry attempt earlier this year.

Meanwhile in Tokushima Prefecture on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands, police arrested three Thai workers for overstaying their original 90-day visas issued in June 1991. According to investigators, the three continued to work at a woodworking firm in Tokushima even though their visas had expired.

In the Chinese case, the five suspected contacts for the Chinese attempting to enter Japan allegedly met about 60 Chinese coming ashore near a Wakayama fishing village and then took them by rented car to Nagoya where they boarded a Shinkansen bullet train to Tokyo. The five are suspected of sheltering the illegal entrants in an apartment in Tokyo's Toshima ward.

According to one of the Chinese sneaking into Japan, they were told that they could make money in Japan, but needed 2.7 million yen to pay for the sea transportation. The would-be worker testified that a portion of the fee had already been paid.

Police said they are pursuing the strong likelihood that the smuggling of Chinese workers into Japan is an organized effort.

'Basic' Accord Reached on Kazakhstan Oil Surveys

OW1904102094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The government-backed Japan National Oil Corp. said Tuesday [19 April] it has reached basic agreement to conduct geological surveys for oil and natural gas in the Republic of Kazakhstan of the former Soviet Union.

The corporation and Kazakhstan authorities have been conducting negotiations since May 1993 on possible surveys in the republic, which is believed to be rich in oil and natural gas resources, officials said. They said the three-year surveys, costing 5.3 billion yen, will cover a 10,000-square-kilometer land area northwest of the Aral Sea.

New Zealand's Foreign, Trade Minister Arrives

OW1904094094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Don McKinnon, New Zealand's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and trade, will meet Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata Wednesday morning, Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said Tuesday [19 April]. McKinnon, who arrived in Japan earlier in the day for a three-day stay, will also meet International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai Wednesday evening, Terada said.

Hata and McKinnon will discuss the situation in Asia, covering such countries as North Korea, China, Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Terada said.

They will also discuss reorganization of the United Nations Security Council, he said. New Zealand supports Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the Security Council, he said.

McKinnon will leave Japan on Thursday.

Supports Tokyo UNSC Seat Issue

OW2004051894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 19 KYODO—New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon reiterated his country's support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday [20 April].

McKinnon, concurrently minister of foreign affairs and trade, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a three-day stay, voiced the support in a meeting with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, the officials said.

He told Hata that New Zealand thinks it important for Japan to become a permanent member of the Security Council because Japan's international role is increasing not only in the economic sphere but also in the political field, they said.

Hata was quoted as replying that Japan wants to actively contribute to the international community.

Also in the 75-minute meeting at the Foreign Ministry, McKinnon said New Zealand, which currently chairs the

Security Council, wants to cooperate with the international community to prevent North Korea from becoming a country with nuclear weapons, according to the officials.

Hata told McKinnon it is important for the world to unite to urge North Korea not to change its position on the nuclear problem [as received], the officials said.

McKinnon also said New Zealand is placing importance on Asia and has hammered out an "Asia 2000" plan to promote its ties with the region.

Hata and McKinnon agreed that the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum should seek boosting the openness of military power in the region to promote stability and security in Asia, the officials said.

Touching on the just-signed Uruguay Round trade pact, they agreed on the importance of settling disputes on a multilateral basis, not by taking unilateral steps, the officials said.

On the bilateral front, McKinnon expressed New Zealand's opposition to whaling, while Hata pointed out cultural differences, the officials said.

Holds News Conference 21 Apr

OW2104064394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—A restructured U.N. Security Council [UNSC] with Japan as a permanent member should reflect the world body's ability to resolve problems it will face in the next century, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon said Thursday [21 April].

McKinnon, whose country currently chairs the Security Council, told a press conference in Tokyo that New Zealand supports Japan's bid to become a permanent Council member, but any decision on membership will have to wait at least two or three years. McKinnon, who is concurrently minister of foreign affairs and trade, said this is the time it will take for the U.N. to conduct a thorough debate on the issue, initiated by U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

"It is going to take a fair bit of tough debate," McKinnon said. "But more importantly, that is to ensure that if the changes do take place, they not only reflect 1994, 1995 and 1996, but hopefully through to the 21st century."

McKinnon also said New Zealand believes the power of veto is "inappropriate" and any new permanent member should not be given veto powers. The five permanent Security council members are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, which all have veto power.

McKinnon said other countries being considered as candidates for permanent membership on the Council are Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Nigeria and Turkey.

"From a purely Asian-Pacific viewpoint, I am very much aware that of the permanent five members, four have Caucasian faces and only one has an Asian face," McKinnon said. "And that balance could easily be upset to the point where the Security Council possibly begins to lose credibility."

"And the credibility of the Council is really the basis of this whole exercise."

McKinnon said Japan's contribution to peacekeeping operations in Cambodia was "certainly a plus" in its bid for Council membership.

The New Zealand deputy premier arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a three-day stay. During his stay he met with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, and International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai.

McKinnon leaves Japan on Thursday for Washington.

Farmers Protest Imports of New Zealand Apples

*OW2004084194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0605 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Farmers gave free apples to pedestrians in Tokyo's Ginza District Wednesday [20 April] to protest imports of apples from New Zealand.

The first batch, a sample consignment of some 50 kilograms, was due to arrive at Narita Airport on Wednesday. Some 100 tons of New Zealand apples will arrive by ship in mid-May.

Apple imports were liberalized in 1971, but with only minor exceptions were essentially banned, with agriculture officials citing risks associated from insects possibly arriving with the imported apples. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, however, cleared New Zealand apples for import last June.

Japanese apple growers are now attempting to devise ways of producing apples at equally competitive prices. The apples given to Ginza pedestrians came from Aomori Prefecture in northern Honshu, where much of Japan's apple crop is grown.

Ginza pedestrians receiving the free apples were told they risk ingesting residual agricultural chemicals if they eat imported varieties.

Wednesday's imports, a variety known as "Royal Gala," are a sample batch brought in by the New Zealand Embassy for testing.

Consumers will not find New Zealand apples on supermarket shelves until late May. Apples from the United States are also expected in Japan in autumn.

Transport and insurance costs for the Royal Gala apples will effectively put them in the same price range as locally grown ones, but future bulk imports are expected to result in price drops.

TSE Studies Foreign Firm Withdrawal Prevention

*OW1904101994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Minoru Nagaoka, head of the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE], said Tuesday [19 April] the exchange is studying measures to prevent foreign firms from pulling out of the market. Nagaoka said the study will focus on ways to reduce listing costs, and the exchange will accept some documents prepared in English by foreign firms to provide investment information to customers.

Measures are needed to internationalize the market's operations as the English language sphere, including Asia, is expanding, he said. He added, however, that details of the study have yet to be worked out.

Nagaoka took a cautious attitude toward the listing of Asian companies on the Tokyo market.

Economic development in Asian countries has made extensive progress but measures to protect investors have to be studied, he said.

Draft Amendment to Foreign Lawyers Bill Approved

*OW1904022294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa approved Tuesday [19 April] a draft amendment to legislation that would partially lift curbs on foreign lawyers wishing to practice law in Japan, government officials said. The draft will be submitted to the Diet later in the day and go into force within a year from its parliamentary endorsement.

It would conditionally authorize the management of a joint law firm between Japanese and foreign lawyers, while keeping a ban on the personnel hiring of Japanese lawyers by foreign lawyers.

The draft would also allow such joint law firms to employ Japanese or foreign lawyers to provide consultation services on Japanese and foreign laws.

However, the proposed legislation would continue to bar foreign lawyers from arguing both criminal and civil cases in Japanese courts.

The amendment will also soften the current law's principle of mutual benefits, thereby authorizing lawyers from countries that ban Japanese lawyers' activities to practice law in Japan, although such practices would have to be approved by the justice minister on a case-by-case basis.

The amendment calls for qualifying foreign lawyers, who have practiced law for more than five years in the country where they obtained their license, to practice law in Japan.

It will also soften the five-year requirement by allowing such lawyers to count up to two years of practicing law in Japan as a legal trainee as part of the five-year requirement. It would allow foreign law firms that launch joint law firms in Japan to use the same corporate names in Japan that they use in their countries of origin.

The amendment was sketched out in response to demands by the United States and the European Union, which have been urging Japan to decontrol its regulations on foreign lawyers' activities. The proposed legislation constitutes a key part of a government package of market-opening and deregulation measures that was announced in February.

Economist Interview on G-7 Policy Coordination
*OW2004090294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT
 20 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Policy coordination by seven major industrialized nations is falling apart amid a spreading gap in credit policy, and Japan is expected to continue facing strong pressure for fresh economic measures, a top Japanese economist says.

The following are excerpts of an interview with Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute, on a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) nations slated for Sunday in Washington.

Q: Is substantial agreement possible when the G-7 nations are starting to place emphasis on domestic policy?

A: It was rather easy to take cooperative steps when interest rates were on the decline in all nations. But now that the United States has already turned to tightening its credit policy to prevent inflation, disarray is starting to surface in monetary policy.

Such cracks will spread further, and I think it will be hard to reach a meaningful agreement.

Q: Do you expect stronger pressure on Japan?

A: The U.S. and European nations brushed aside the government's market-opening package launched in late March, and Japan is far behind schedule to adopt concrete measures to expand domestic demand. Moreover, resumption of the stalled Japan-U.S. trade talks is not yet in sight, and what else can you expect when even Finance Minister (Hirohisa) Fujii may not be able to attend?

It's like asking, "please criticize."

Q: What should the incoming new cabinet do to dodge such criticism?

A: Japan must rush to detail measures to boost domestic demand and open markets. If I were the prime minister, I would take the responsibility to implement such measures as continuation and expansion of income tax cuts

and building up social infrastructure investment while holding separate discussions on funding.

No country will be satisfied with Japan just repeating, "We can't accept any numerical targets and we are not thinking of any alternatives."

Q: What are your expectations of rising U.S. long-term rates?

A: If the U.S. economy continues to recover, we definitely cannot expect U.S. rates to decline. Higher rates will probably send stock and bond prices lower, and may also drag down the economies of Japan and Europe.

Along with Japan's facing pressure to cut its huge trade surplus, the U.S. is also likely to come under pressure from the other G-7 countries to curb interest rates.

Q: What about labor issues?

A: Structural problems, primarily faced by European nations, should rather be discussed from a long-term perspective. As for the G-7 talks, the main point is on limiting increases in unemployment rates by ensuring economic recovery through financial policy coordination.

Q: Do you expect much discussion on exchange rates?

A: Against Japan's expectations, I believe currency rates will hardly be discussed at all. The U.S. dollar is not necessarily falling against European currencies, and the yen seems to be staging a lonely appreciation.

The usual mention may be included in the joint statement, but substantial talks on exchange rates are unlikely to take place.

EU Ministerial Meeting Postponed Until May
*OW2004145694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT
 20 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [20 April] it has notified the European Union (EU) that a ministerial meeting planned for Friday and Saturday in Tokyo will be put off till next month due to the delayed formation of Japan's new government.

At the annual EU meeting, Japan's foreign minister and finance minister were scheduled to talk with EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan on issues such as the country's massive trade surplus with the EU and on its deregulation measures.

Japan's prime minister and cabinet ministers have yet to be officially selected, however. The delay in the formation of a new government has led to postponements of visits to Tokyo by such dignitaries as the Egyptian president and Thai prime minister.

IMF: Stimulus Package To Produce Growth

*OW2004234994 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Washington, April 20 KYODO—Japan's battered economy is showing signs of revival this year, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Wednesday [20 April] gave the credit to an ambitious stimulus package the Japanese Government introduced in February. There would be "essentially no growth in the absence of the package," the IMF said in a study on the macroeconomic effects of the 15.3 trillion yen economic program.

The package, which consists of a mix of government spending plus a one-time tax reduction, "will raise the level of output by about three-fourths of 1 percent in both 1994 and 1995," the IMF said in its semiannual review of the world economy.

The IMF study also said the stimulative effect of the economic package is expected to cut Japan's current-account surplus by 1.5 percent this year and by a lesser margin in 1995.

Without the package, the IMF projects the surplus in Japan's current account, which provides the broadest measure of foreign trade, will rise from 131.4 billion dollars last year to 135.5 billion dollars this year. With the package in place, this year's surplus is expected to shrink by 2.1 billion dollars to 133.4 billion dollars.

For 1995, the package is expected to produce a 1.5 billion dollar difference in Japan's projected current-account surplus, from 127.2 billion dollars to 125.7 billion dollars.

ExIm Bank Extends Credit Lines to Baltic States

*OW1904043494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The Export-Import (ExIm) Bank of Japan announced Tuesday [19 April] the signing of agreements to establish untied credit lines equivalent to up to 100 million dollars to the Baltic countries to help support infrastructure projects. The loans consist of 30 million dollars each to Estonia and Latvia and 40 million dollars to Lithuania, the governmental bank said.

The bank said the loans will be provided in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) under a government loan program for developing countries mapped out last June.

The bank extended a total of 100 million dollars to the Baltic states last year in co-financing with the World Bank.

Loan Documents Exchanged With El Salvador

*OW2004234794 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan will lend El Salvador up to 10.3 billion yen to help finance its program to repair and expand roads destroyed by guerrillas during the 12-year civil war, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [21 April].

Japanese Ambassador to El Salvador Shigetaka Ishihara and El Salvador's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Salaverría exchanged documents on the loan in San Salvador on Wednesday, the ministry said.

The 30-year loan, with a grace period of 10 years, carries an annual interest of 3 percent, the ministry said.

The latest loan brings the total amount of Japanese loans to the Latin American country to 27.68 billion yen, the ministry said.

Tokyo's Job Training Program Gets 'Poor Start'

*OW2004084794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—A government job training program designed to promote the transfer of technology to developing countries got off to a poor start in fiscal 1993 because the number of applicants fell below expectations, a Labor Ministry official said Wednesday [20 April]. The number of applicants stood at 1,147 for the year ended March 31, falling short of the 15,000 applicants envisaged for the first year of the program, the official said.

Under the program, applicants will be given Japanese-language lessons and job training for the first year and then those who pass a job examination test will be allowed to work in Japan for a year without a working visa.

The official attributed the fewer-than-expected applicants to the sluggish economy, and the resulting drop in demand for foreign labor.

The official also cited a hesitancy among employers to hire those trained under the program.

Most applicants were from Asian countries. China led the list of applicants with 602, followed by Indonesia with 426 and the Philippines with 53.

Watanabe Views Ozawa, Conservative Coalition

*OW2004015194 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1010 GMT 19 Apr 94*

[Interview with former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe by NHK Political News Department correspondent Koike; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Watanabe] I believe that the opposition Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] alone cannot take power. Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] and the Japan New Party [JNP] alone also cannot take power. I am in agreement with the policies of Shinseito and the Japan New Party, and Komeito [Clean Government Party] appears to be agreeing with their policies. My agreement with those policies can pave the way for forging a conservative coalition, and this is the best option under the present political situation. Forging such a conservative coalition will serve the interests of our nation.

The coalition partners so far have placed importance on making a distinction between the LDP and the non-LDP, and their attitude has stood in the way of forging such a conservative coalition. I have intended to play a role in rallying conservative political parties that share the same political beliefs. I have thought that this is an ideal approach. To play such a role, I have to form a new political party after quitting the LDP. Political parties that share the same policies should forge an alliance after putting aside their past grudges and ill feelings. I still believe that this is the best way.

[Koike] Mr. Watanabe, there is a belief that you may have ridden the wave of Ozawa's strategy.

[Watanabe] I do not think that I have ridden the wave of his strategy. I have acted in accordance with my own beliefs.

[Koike] Mr. Watanabe, in recent days you have made twists and turns. How do you assess Mr. Ozawa?

[Watanabe] Mr. Ozawa and I share completely identical policies, and I trust him.

[Koike] Would you comment on his artifice [chibo]?

[Watanabe] Artifice and the way of getting things done differ from person to person. I think that Mr. Ozawa is a decisive man and a man of action. He is a wonderful man. If he relies excessively on his artifice, this would cause problems. I am an old man. I value relationships with other people as much as possible. I always hope to get along well with other people. Mr. Ozawa and I do not necessarily share the same artifice.

[Koike] Do you still have the desire to become prime minister?

[Watanabe] I intend to fulfill my desire as long as I serve as a politician. I will keep the desire in mind.

Olympic Committee on Mixed Feelings About Hata

OW2104083894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Nagano, April 21 KYODO—Although Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata is likely to become the first prime minister from Nagano Prefecture, officials of the

1998 Nagano Winter Olympic Games Organizing Committee (NAOC) are not necessarily happy about his taking the nation's helm at this juncture.

If Hata, who heads Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], powerhouse of the seven-party ruling coalition, succeeds departing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, his term is expected to be short given the current unstable political situation, according to political sources.

"We hope Hata will be nominated for the premiership because that would be a great help toward the Olympics," said an official who requested anonymity. "But we are afraid he would not be able to keep his position until the year of the games," he said.

The 58-year-old Hata hails from Ueda in the central Japan prefecture.

Table of Parliamentary Strengths for 21 Apr

OW2104083994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—The following is a table of parliamentary strength after six Liberal Democratic Party defectors and one independent formed a New Party Jiyuto (Liberal Party), another LDP defector joined Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], and one became independent on Thursday [20 April].

House of Representatives	Party	House of Councillors
206	LDP	95
74	SDP	68
62	Shinseito	—
52	Komeito	24
37	Kaikaku (reform)	—
19	DSP/Shinto Club	—
15	JCP	11
15	Sakigake/JNP	—
7	Liberal Party	—
5	New Party Mirai	—
4	Kaikaku No Kai	—
3	Group Seiun	—
—	Shin Ryokufukai	37
—	Nin Club	5
—	Goken Liberal No Kai	5
10	Independents	7
2	Vacancies	0
511	total	252

Kono Urges Coalition To Disband Over Delay

*OW2104105794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Opposition leader Yohei Kono urged Thursday [21 April] parties in the ruling coalition to disband, saying a delay in choosing a new prime minister is impermissible. Kono, president of the major opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said in a statement that the coalition ignores the people through its prolonged negotiations, and that the situation has already passed the permissible point.

He said the coalition should have the courage to disband rather than conceal differences in policies. After the dissolution of the coalition, parties should again discuss policies and decide on a new government, he said.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced on April 8 that he will resign over his alleged shady financial deals and delays in Diet deliberations on the fiscal 1994 budget. During nearly two weeks after Hosokawa's announcement of his resignation, the ruling parties have not chosen his successor due to internal power struggles and differences over key policies for a new cabinet.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of the coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], is regarded as the most probable successor to Hosokawa.

Kono also said Japan should have a "definite policy" before sending its finance minister to a series of international monetary meetings in Washington this weekend. On Sunday, finance ministers and central bank presidents from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations are scheduled to meet in the U.S. capital.

The LDP president urged a speedy beginning to Diet deliberations on fiscal 1994 budget bills, saying the obstacles to debate disappeared now that Hosokawa announced he would step down. The coalition government submitted the bills to the Diet in early March, but the LDP insisted on discussing Hosokawa's financial transactions first and has refused to start budget debates.

Kono said Hosokawa's questionable deals should be discussed further at a Diet committee, but not at the Budget Committee where the budget is tabled, noting that he will continue to be head of a political party, the Japan New Party.

Hosokawa had been under fire over suspicions about shady fund-raising through a 100 million yen loan from a scandal-tainted trucking firm and a stock purchase.

Policy Differences Threaten To Split Coalition

*OW2104105294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Policy differences over tax reform and Japan's response to North Korea's suspected nuclear development program threatened Thursday [21 April] to split the ruling coalition again,

coalition officials said. Following the deepening rift among the coalition parties, the House of Representatives Steering Committee agreed Thursday not to convene a plenary session on Friday to pick a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation on April 8.

Political sources said the inauguration of a new cabinet may be carried over into next week.

All the coalition parties other than the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ] spurned the SDP's demands to play down the wording on tax reform and the North Korean nuclear issue in a policy document for a new cabinet, the officials said.

At a meeting of secretaries general-level representatives of coalition partners Thursday, the majority of parties led by Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] told the SDP, the largest party in the eight-month alliance, that they will not accept SDP demands. The SDP demands that the term "national consensus" be inserted into the policy document as a prerequisite for a hike in indirect taxes, while other parties call for inserting an indication of their readiness to hike the consumption tax from the current 3 percent.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is Shinseito head and regarded as the most probable successor to Hosokawa, told reporters that a raise in the indirect tax is necessary.

Earlier in the day, SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama told party executives, "Please be aware that we may have to pull out of the coalition."

The SDP earlier told its partners it would never drop its demands for abolition of the consumption tax and security policy coordination with China in the event of a military conflict on the Korean peninsula over the nuclear inspection row.

At a news briefing following the afternoon bargaining session, Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa said the non-SDP parties "will have to accept the possible withdrawal of the SDP from our coalition."

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa also ruled out a compromise with the SDP, but hinted at efforts to bring together all forces ready to endorse the coalition's proposed policy document.

Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, the main coalition strategist, told Shinseito executives, "If we play our ace (Foreign Minister Hata) while leaving our policies ambiguous, we will definitely fall into confusion in two to three months."

"We are now at a turning point where we have to decide whether to put up the hardest fight now or at that time," Ozawa declared.

The standoff has revolved around two key policy fields.

The non-SDP camp called for inserting into the policy document an indication of its readiness to hike the consumption tax from the current 3 percent, while the SDP demanded that a term of "public acceptance" be inserted as a prerequisite for the hike.

The non-SDP camp rejected this condition, saying it would make it virtually impossible to hike the rate and secure revenues to fund increasing welfare outlays for the elderly.

The SDP also demanded the insertion of wording calling for China's consent to any Japanese compliance with a possible U.N. Security Council resolution on economic sanctions on North Korea.

Ozawa and Ichikawa told the coalition meeting that if China vetoed the resolution and expressed dissatisfaction over Japanese cooperation with U.S. forces, such wording could deter Japan from taking defensive military action in the event of fighting on the Korean peninsula.

Ozawa earlier urged coalition partners to recognize the need for legislative preparations to empower the Japanese Self-Defense Forces to provide logistical support if U.S. warships conducted a naval blockade of North Korea.

In the face of rejection, SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo has asked for time to persuade other SDP leaders to rethink the issue.

The secretaries general of the non-SDP camp agreed to reconvene their meeting at 8 P.M. [1100 GMT] after letting Kubo make another effort at reconciliation, coalition sources said.

Kubo and SDP executives were scheduled to meet at 6 P.M. to decide whether to accept the stance of their coalition partners, the sources said. If they can reconcile their differences, the coalition allies will call a meeting of party heads to endorse the policy tenets and select Hata as their candidate to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Hata Urges SDPJ To Concede in Policy Talks

OW2104125494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is head of the key coalition party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], on Thursday urged the coalition's biggest group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ], to come closer to other parties over policy affairs. Hata, who is widely expected to be picked as a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, told reporters that the SDP should make a decision in order to maintain the coalition government.

The SDP has threatened to secede from the coalition because of differences with other parties on tax reform and Japan's response to North Korea's suspected nuclear development program.

Hata said some SDP members are making endeavors to keep the coalition together. He said the ruling parties should debate policies thoroughly, noting that such discussions would later help the new government.

The coalition has failed to pick a successor to Hosokawa for nearly two weeks since Hosokawa announced his resignation on April 8.

SDPJ Prevents Coalition's Agreement on Policy

OW2104032494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party's [of Japan—SDPJ] stance on taxes and its policy toward North Korea remained the main stumbling blocks to agreement among coalition parties Thursday [21 April] morning, political sources said.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest of the coalition parties, is stipulating that an increase in direct taxes should be linked to "an end to the consumption tax and the establishment of new taxation after seeking the people's consent."

The other parties want reference to the consumption tax restricted to the expression "including reorganization of" the tax, but support a compromise that omits reference to "the consent of the people."

At meetings of its three top executives and its central executive committee, the SDP leadership spent the morning discussing possible ways to reach a compromise with the other coalition parties.

But during a 10.30 A.M. [0130 GMT] break in proceedings, sources said, it appeared the party was determined to insist on the revised proposals it had originally put before a meeting of coalition leaders on Wednesday.

If agreement is reached among all the coalition members Thursday, the parties will hold a meeting of their leaders to secure written assent to the deal and choose Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, leader of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], as successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Shinseito is the coalition's second largest party.

This outcome would mean that a plenary session of both houses of the Diet could not be convened until Friday at the earliest, but political sources said it is possible political manoeuvring and negotiations over the new cabinet could further delay the process until Saturday.

Other policy issues negotiated among coalition members included the question of North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons. The SDP holds that in the

event of an emergency, Japan should engage in "close collaboration" with the United States, South Korea and China.

But Shinseito's top strategist Ichiro Ozawa disagreed, arguing that in a hypothetical circumstance where China has exercised its right to a veto in the United Nations Security Council and Japan subsequently is subjected to a missile attack, Japan would be unable to engage in "close collaboration" with China, nor treat it in the same manner as the U.S. and South Korea.

SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama told reporters Thursday morning that the party would engage in "spirited debate" over the unresolved issues.

"We have to deal with the budget as soon as possible," Murayama said. "We are reaching the limit. We want to sort things out somehow."

Murayama on Willingness To Stay in Coalition

OW1904132894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1323 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—The head of the primary coalition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ], indicated Thursday [21 April] that his party will remain in the eight-month-old ruling coalition, party officials said. Tomiichi Murayama told a party meeting that the SDP will continue efforts to keep the coalition intact against growing speculation that the SDP may leave the alliance over policy gaps.

Murayama, speaking at a meeting of the party's leadership body, the Central Executive Committee, expressed willingness to continue talks with other coalition partners to find a breakthrough to deadlocked negotiations on cementing policy accords.

The coalition hopes to come to a consensus prior to picking its candidate for a new premier in the Diet election who will succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Talks among the coalition partners remain at an impasse over how to find common ground to document policies on two remaining key policies—tax reform and Japan's stand on North Korea's suspected nuclear development program. Murayama told the meeting that the SDP will modify its own alternative on the two key issues, saying the coalition partners can not reach agreement on policy talks if they refuse to change any wording.

LDP Supporters 'Guilty' in Illegal Tax Refunds

OW1904090894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Yokohama, April 19 KYODO—The Yokohama District Court found Tuesday [19 April] two former leaders of now-defunct support groups for a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker, guilty of receiving tax refunds illegally through submitting false accounts.

The court sentenced Yoshio Nagano, 52, to 18 months imprisonment with four years' suspension and a 5 million yen fine, and Kiichiro Hara, 51, to one year imprisonment suspended for three years and a 3 million yen fine. The two previously led political groups for LDP House of Representatives member Akira Amari.

From 1989 to 1991, they submitted to the Kanagawa Prefecture Election Monitoring Committee reports of donations 10 times greater than those actually received. According to the accounts, the men received tax refunds and evaded some 68 million yen in taxes.

Judge Hiroshi Akiyama said, "their criminal liabilities are serious since they established the political groups for the purpose of tax evasion by making unlawful use of the (state's) tax rebate system."

Kubota Views 'Economic Affairs' Post, Economy

OW1904030394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Establishing an economic affairs minister with broad jurisdiction is possible if the purpose is clarified, economic planning chief Manae Kubota said Tuesday [19 April]. At a press conference after what she said was probably the last regular meeting of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet, Kubota said the reported idea of such a post "is possible if the purpose is made clear."

"That purpose isn't clear to me," said Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA). But she added, "It may be possible. The economy is a broad field."

The idea of a broadly defined economic affairs minister was reported in Tuesday's YOMIURI SHIMBUN, which quoted a Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] leader. The party is headed by Tsutomu Hata, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, believed to replace Hosokawa as premier.

Kubota also said the economy "is going in a brighter direction" but repeated concern about such uncertainties as the high yen and the possible effects of drawn-out political turmoil on the budget. She said the economy is at "the most important point in trying to get to its feet."

Kubota also said her Social Democratic Party should not agree to raising the consumption tax at the outset of coalition talks on a promised overhaul of Japan's tax system.

Mieno Notes Economic 'Signs of Improvement'

OW1904060894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Tuesday [19 April] the central bank would soon declare the economic recession over.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting in Tokyo, sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, Mieno said there were signs of improvement in the domestic economy, centering on personal consumption. Mieno, however, said the central bank is still unable to determine an economic pickup before key indicators are analyzed closely.

Steady progress in stock adjustments suggests the groundwork is being laid for economic recovery, he said.

Mieno also said the central bank sees no need to change the official discount rate for now from the present 1.75 percent per year.

EPA: Still Stagnation in Regional Economies

*OW1904094494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The Economic Planning Agency said Tuesday [19 April] regional economies generally remain stagnant although some bright factors are seen in Kyushu and Hokkaido.

In Kyushu, southern Japan, industrial production indexes improved consecutively in January and February, compared with the preceding months, the agency said.

The agency added, however, sales at large retail stores remained sluggish in major urban regions, including Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka.

TSE Chief Says Economy on 'Upward Track'

*OW1904094794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The chief of the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE] said Tuesday [19 April] he feels the economy is on an upward track judging from stock trading volume, despite a lack of clear-cut signals from government statistics.

Speaking at a news conference, TSE President Minoru Nagaoka said trading volume is still vulnerable to political uncertainty and other negative news, but he pointed to a tendency in the volume to rebound quickly after any setback.

Asked to comment on the overnight tumble on Wall Street due to a rise in U.S. interest rates, Nagaoka said he is closely watching the New York stock market, but added that he is confident Tokyo stocks will not follow New York.

Finance Officials Optimistic About Economy

*OW2104035994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0234 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan's economy is poised to recover with the government's latest stimulus package expected to send it into a full pickup phase in

the current fiscal year, Finance Ministry regional bureau chiefs said Thursday [21 April].

The bright picture came in a report assessing overall economic activity based on reports by 11 regional financial bureau heads gathered in Tokyo for a quarterly two-day meeting. "The time is ripening for an economic recovery, with personal consumption showing brightness, housing construction remaining buoyant and public investment staying at high levels," the report said.

It also cited bright signs in some areas in production, a turn around in corporate outlook to profits for the first six months of the current year, and declining bankruptcy cases.

By steadily implementing the February 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package and the economy-oriented fiscal 1994 budget, the economy "is expected to move on to a full-fledged recovery track in the current fiscal year," the report said.

On the down side, it said corporate capital spending plans for the current year "remain cautious," and the labor condition is deteriorating, both mainly in the manufacturing sector.

JCCI: Economy in Doldrums, Few Recovery Signs

*OW2104085194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—The head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) said Thursday [21 April] he believes the Japanese economy remains in the doldrums and is showing few signs of recovery. JCCI Chairman Kosaku Inaba told reporters that the economic condition is neither improving nor worsening.

Inaba said the prolonged political uncertainties, recent hikes in public utility rates and the yen's appreciation against the dollar could affect an economic recovery.

He expressed concern over a delay in the selection of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's successor and called for urgent efforts to form a new cabinet and expedite Diet approval of the government budget for fiscal 1994, which started April 1.

Saito: Government Can Attain Growth Target

*OW2104102494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan can attain the government's economic growth target of 2.4 percent for the current fiscal year, a senior Finance Ministry official said Thursday [21 April], brushing aside a weak International Monetary Fund (IMF) projection.

Vice Finance Minister Juro Saito, speaking at a regular news conference, also indicated that Japan is not considering fresh economic measures ahead of a meeting slated

for Sunday in Washington of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations.

The IMF said Wednesday in a twice-yearly report that Japan's growth in real gross domestic product will be 0.7 percent for calendar 1994, the lowest among the G-7 nations, and called for further fiscal and monetary measures.

The world economic report serves as a key material for the G-7 talks and the twice-yearly gatherings of the IMF and the World Bank.

Referring to the IMF outlook, Saito said, "There are various ways to assess the economy... but we think the 2.4 percent target is possible by steadily implementing the ongoing stimulus measures."

"The economy has become brighter and is unlikely to fall further," Saito said, analyzing reports by the ministry's regional financial bureau chiefs.

Summing up reports by 11 regional chiefs who gathered in Tokyo for a quarterly two-day meeting, the ministry said earlier, "the time is ripening for an economic recovery," with a full-fledged recovery expected in the current fiscal year on the heels of February's 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package and the fiscal 1994 budget.

On the fiscal side, Saito said that he interpreted the IMF report as calling for "continued measures and not additional ones." The report said, "For the upswing to gain sufficient momentum, continued fiscal support and a further easing of monetary conditions may well be required."

Considering monetary measures, Saito declined to comment, saying Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno clearly indicated his stance in his latest remarks to the press. Speaking to foreign correspondents in Tokyo Tuesday, Mieno said, "I'm not thinking of changing the discount rate at the moment."

MITI Chief on Plutonium Use, Energy Demand

OW1904030294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0220 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Japan will back down from its plan to promote plutonium use for nuclear recycling, International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai said Tuesday [19 April]. Kumagai was referring to reported calls by the Advisory Committee for Energy, his advisory organ, for reviewing Japan's policy in favor of plutonium use as a way to meet energy demand in the future.

The committee is now formulating a report on Japan's new energy policy by accounting for recent rapid changes in the energy field.

Speaking before a regular press conference, Kumagai said the committee is moving toward a consensus against

active use of plutonium. "Discussion so far by the committee seems to be convincing," Kumagai said.

Japan has come under global criticism for its plutonium policy as leading to nuclear proliferation. Doubt has also been cast at home over the feasibility of commercial use of plutonium.

Kumagai said he will meet Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday to discuss Japan's stance on the so-called trade "framework" talks with the United States.

Discussion will focus on assessing last week's meeting between Hata and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, in search of a breakthrough in the stalled framework talks, the trade minister said.

Kumagai said Japan should maximize its efforts to reopen the bilateral trade talks before the annual summit of the seven major industrialized countries in Naples in July.

The Hata-Kantor meeting failed to produce an accord on setting a time for resumption of the trade talks. But reports said some progress was made over "objective criteria" or numerical targets.

The framework talks have been suspended since Japan rejected a U.S. request to use numerical targets to measure the openness of its markets.

Agencies Agree to Heavier Bid-Rigging Penalties

OW2004141394 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] Public agencies, including 11 government ministries and agencies and 17 public corporations, which grant contracts on public works projects, held a liaison meeting and agreed to be more strict in excluding from the list of possible bidders the names of construction companies which have been found to be guilty of indulging in corrupt practices and bid-rigging. The decision was made to prevent recurrences of scandals related to contract bids for public works projects. Ministries and agencies plan to impose penalties based on the new standards after next month. In addition, they plan to call on local governments to follow suit.

FTC Orders Dismantling of Tile Makers' Cartel

OW2004114194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] Nagoya, April 20 KYODO—The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said Wednesday [20 April] it has ordered mosaic tile makers to dismantle the price cartel for tiles sold at home and overseas. The FTC said the national union formed by 114 tile makers has fixed the

prices of mosaic tiles for domestic sale and exports in violation of the Antimonopoly Law.

Commission officials said the tile makers, plagued by swollen inventories in the wake of the burst of the "bubble economy," formed the price cartel to prevent price falls.

The FTC issued the order after three rounds of investigations at the union's headquarters in Nagoya and other places, the officials said.

Tile makers belonging to the union set a low-end price for mosaic tiles at 95 yen per sheet, each consisting of 18 tiles, the officials said.

Companies not accepting the FTC order will be liable to a penalty fine set in proportion to sales.

Further Telecommunications Deregulation Urged

OW1904102994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—An influential business group on Tuesday [19 April] urged the government to carry out further deregulation in telecommunications and information fields, giving the private sector a wider role in constructing infrastructure.

A report from the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) recommended construction of a nationwide optical fiber communication network as a core project in Japan's future infrastructure in advanced telecommunications. It should be built through free-market competition and private-sector participation, utilizing financial support from the public sector, it says.

The report also calls for simplification of procedures in the radio frequency licensing system to encourage new entries into mobile phones. The recommendations will be submitted to ministries and agencies for inclusion in a government deregulation program scheduled for release this year.

Mongolia

President Appeals for End to Hunger Strike

LD1804090394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0811 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat has appealed to the activists of the Mongolian Democratic Party and the Mongolian Socialist-Democratic Party who are taking part in a hunger strike on a central square in the capital to abandon extreme measures in the political struggle. Receiving representatives of participants in the action, the president spoke of his readiness to submit their demands to parliament for examination in order to settle the alarming situation as quickly as possible.

Opposition forces are insisting on the prime minister's resignation, accusing the government of corruption and inability to fulfill its promises to bring the country out of crisis.

P. Ochirbat has held consultations with the leaders of various parties and with the head of the Council of Ministers.

Government Supporters, Opponents Demonstrate

LD1904092694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0705 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Excerpts] Ulaanbaatar, 19 Apr—The political confrontation in Mongolia is heating up. Hunger strikes under way on two of the squares in the capital, and people are getting up on soap boxes, one group demanding the government should resign, and the other defending it.

Opposition forces accuse the cabinet of ministers of conducting an ineffective economic policy, and also accuse the premier of corruption. The hunger strikers among the opposition forces include Former Vice-President R. Gonchigdorj, leader of the Mongolian Socialist Democratic Party. He deemed it impossible to continue taking part in the work of the People's Great Hural session, believing that parliament is delaying a decision on a no-confidence vote in the government. Ts. Elbegdorj, leader of the Mongolian Democratic Party, also gave up his deputy mandate and left the parliament session for the same reason.

Supporters of the present government, however, think it has made important strides to stabilize the economy and implement the transition to market relations, and that it should be given the opportunity of working its full term according to the Constitution. They have announced a mass rally for today in support of the government. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Puntsagiyn Jasray and President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat are expected to address the parliamentary session today.

Ulaanbaatar Rally Demands Government Resignation

LD2104100594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0903 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 21 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Mongolian Democratic Union and a number of other opposition forces held a rally here today demanding the government's resignation. In their view, the cabinet's socioeconomic program is not in any state to extricate the country from crisis. The opposition also called on the law and order agencies to urgently start an investigation

into facts relating to accusations that high-ranking officials are involved in corruption and abuse of their official position.

The hunger strike on Ulaanbaatar's main square by activists of the opposition forces has been going on for seven days now, in spite of the fact that the president and parliament have spoken in favor of this extreme political action being ended. The hunger strike on Freedom Square, organized by supporters of the government, has already been going on for five days now. They have stated that they will only stop it after the opposition does the same.

"Free microphones" have been set up in both squares which anyone can use who wants to talk about the problems worrying him.

Today, according to a report from a source in parliament, members of the Great Hural discussed the political situation in the country. The draft decision on this issue was handed over to the leaders of the political parties.

North Korea

'Positive Response' Made to IAEA Request

OW2104012294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0055 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Vienna, April 20 KYODO—North Korea has replied positively to an IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] request for inspections of a nuclear facility that Pyongyang barred the agency from checking last month, an agency spokesman said Wednesday [20 April].

The spokesman said the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) received a positive response from North Korea to the U.N. request and that the agency will decide how to deal with the issue within a few days.

The North appears to have agreed to inspections on a part of the key atomic site with certain conditions, instead of full inspection as the IAEA has demanded, diplomatic sources said.

The IAEA sent a letter to the North on April 8 urging Pyongyang to allow the agency to make additional inspections at the radiochemical laboratory in Yongbyon, north of the capital.

The IAEA also asked North Korea to allow the agency to change film and batteries of surveillance cameras installed at all the declared nuclear facilities.

IAEA inspectors went to North Korea in early March but were denied access to the radiochemical laboratory. The agency said the tests it wanted to carry out at the laboratory were necessary to determine whether Pyongyang has diverted nuclear materials.

The agency on March 22 referred the matter to the U.N. Security Council, which issued a presidential statement March 31 urging the North to allow the IAEA to complete the inspections.

North Korea has denied it is developing a nuclear arsenal and warned a war could break out on the Korean peninsula if it was pressed too hard on the matter.

Foreign Leaders Express Support on Nuclear Issue

SK2004153194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Presidents and prime ministers of different countries expressed support to the struggle of the Korean people to peacefully solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and the question of national reunification.

The Maltese president, Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, when he met with the DPRK ambassador to Malta, expressed the hope that the desire of the Korean people would be realized through the peaceful reunification of Korea.

The Kazakh president, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, when he received credentials from the DPRK ambassador to his country, expressed the hope that the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula would be solved in a peaceful way.

John Samuel Malecela, prime minister and first vice-president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Simon Achidi Achu, prime minister of Cameroon, and Silvestre Siale Bileka, prime minister of Equatorial Guinea, when they met a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK, said they hoped the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula would be solved peacefully through DPRK-USA talks and expressed full support to the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the reunification of their country through confederacy.

Koreans in Moscow Send Letters to UN, Clinton

SK2104045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434
GMT 21 Apr 94

[“UN and United States Urged To Take Measures for Peaceful Solution of Nuclear Issue”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The Committee of Korean Veterans in Moscow on April 7 sent letters to the United Nations Security Council and the U.S. President concerning the tensions on the Korean peninsula growing due to the anti-DPRK nuclear racket of the United States and its followers.

The letter to the UN Security Council said that the situation on the Korean peninsula has reached a brink of war owing to the moves of the reactionary forces of the United States, Japan and South Korea. This poses a threat to peace in northeast Asia and the rest of the world, it added.

It appealed to the UN Security Council to coolly and prudently assess the situation created around the Korean peninsula and exert its utmost efforts to solve the nuclear issue in this region in a peaceful way.

It demanded that the United Nations take the stand of impartiality and rectify its policy toward the DPRK.

The letter to the U.S. President said if the U.S. President really intends to call upon the governments of all countries to observe human rights and democracy, humanitarianism and moral freedom, he should immediately take practical and necessary measures and decisions to prevent the aggravation of the tense situation surrounding the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK, give up the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, stop the maneuvers of U.S. aircraft carriers and warships and cancel the deployment of Patriot missiles.

Foreign Groups Urge U.S. To End 'Hostile Acts'

SK2104110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Foreign political parties and public organisations urged the United States to immediately stop all its hostile acts against the DPRK.

A resolution on invigorating the movement for solidarity with the Korean people was adopted at the 14th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party (Red Motherland). The resolution said the North of the Korean peninsula has no nuclear issue in actuality and that the "nuclear issue" was intentionally invented by the United States to divert elsewhere public attention from their nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

It urged the United States to immediately stop the bellicose acts and the campaign over "nuclear threat from the North."

The Arab Islamic Democratic Movement and the Islamic-Christian United Action Front in a letter to the U.S. President criticized the U.S. for reversing the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York and held that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be settled through DPRK-U.S. talks.

The group for the study of the chuche idea of President Kim Il-song in Austria in a statement strongly demanded that the United States give up the scheme to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercises and the deployment of Patriot in South Korea and immediately stop all its hostile acts against the DPRK.

The Congolese committee to support the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo in an appeal to the peaceloving people of the world called on them to heighten vigilance against the anti-DPRK campaign of the United States and denounce it.

Reunification Group Denounces Perry's ROK Trip

SK2104111094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The preparatory committee for the formation of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification released a statement on April 15 denouncing the South Korean trip of the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Noting that the United States is the very one responsible for the division of the Korean nation and is still blocking its independent and peaceful reunification, the statement says:

"We cannot overlook the fact that the U.S. defense secretary, William Perry, threatened the lives of our 70 million fellow countrymen with the bellicose remarks that the U.S. would not rule out a war on the Korean peninsula.

"We are convinced that the South Korean trip of Perry who is the most stubborn hard-liner in executing the U.S. policy of increasing the tensions on the Korean peninsula and perpetuating national division will not be helpful at all to peace on the Korean peninsula and its independent and peaceful reunification, the cherished desire of our fellow countrymen. On the contrary, it will heighten tensions and further wreck reconciliation and unity of our nation.

"Therefore, we resolutely oppose Perry's jackboots treading on this land where our fellow countrymen desirous of independent and peaceful reunification live.

"We denounce the threat of war provocation by outside forces and declare to the world that we will fight against it."

KCNA Reports Anti-U.S. Rallies in Moscow

SK2004153394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Rallies protesting the U.S. pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea were held on April 10 in front of the embassies of the United States and Japan and the South Korean "embassy" in Moscow, according to a report.

Participating in the rallies were a secretary of the central committee, and the first organisational secretary of the Moscow committee, of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party, and people from different walks of life.

The speakers at the rallies sharply denounced the United States and its followers, Japan and the South Korean authorities, for carrying the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war on the pretext of the DPRK's "nuclear development", and demanded that the United States stop at once its interference in the internal affairs of Korea and new war provocation manoeuvres.

They demanded an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and expressed full support to the Korean people in their struggle for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

Statements and appeals denouncing the anti-DPRK moves of the United States, Japan and the South Korean authorities were published at the rallies.

Radio Condemns U.S.-ROK 17-18 Apr Air Exercise

SK2004041494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] According to military sources, U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets conducted provocative joint aerial war exercise aimed at a northward invasion on 17 and 18 April by drawing in various military planes from overseas bases.

On 17 April, fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes, VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes, and electronic intercept planes took off from U.S. bases in the Pacific area and were deployed to the U.S. Air Force bases occupying South Korea for this war exercise. On 18 April, combat planes of the Air Force and the Marine Corps, and an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane flew in from bases in Kadena and Yokosuka, Japan to South Korean bases.

Prior to this frenzied war exercise, EA-6 electronic intercept planes created an electronic jam mainly in the skies above Yongwol, Yangpyong, and Pyongtaek. An EH-60 electronic warfare helicopter guaranteed a strike air corps' surprise attack by creating an electronic jam while repeatedly circling around in the skies above Kapyong, Pochon, and Kanghwa Island. Various fighter-bombers, assault planes, and observation planes mobilized in the skies above this area were madly engaged in an intensive striking exercise against targets in the electric jam.

This fire game commotion [pulchangnan sodong], for which as many as 500 military planes of various types were mobilized, was aimed at examining the practicality [hyonsilsong] of a surprise attack and the consecutive bombing capability of air corps of each type of plane with electronic jamming.

While the joint aerial war exercise was frantically conducted on 18 April, an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane flew from Kadena base in Japan to South Korea, and madly carried out electronic reconnaissance and aerial photographing of important strategic areas of the northern half of the Republic while making round flights in the skies above Yangyang, Hongchon, and Tokchok Island.

On 17 and 18 April, a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and an RV-1 tactical reconnaissance plane were madly engaged in aerial reconnaissance on

the overall area of the northern half of the Republic while flying in day and night in the skies above the area near the military demarcation line.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets conducted firing [chongpo sagyok] near the DMZ, in front of us. A tank group of the puppet Army was moved and deployed in an area near Kumpa-ri, Paju county on 17 April and fired some 170 tank shells on the banks of the Imjin River. An artillery unit of the puppet Army's occupied a firing position in Yonsan-ri, Kachon county and wielded a war frenzy by randomly shooting some 80 bombshells at areas near the DMZ.

On 18 April, after occupying a combat position at Konsol-ri, Yanggu county and at Kojanha-ri, Yonchon county, the puppet armed rascals stirred up a war atmosphere by arbitrarily firing some 1,000 large-caliber gunshots.

The war commotion by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets is becoming all the more unscrupulous with the U.S. military leaders' repeated conspiracy with the puppets to plot a war scheme and their dragging in and deploying slaughtering equipments, such as Patriot missiles, to South Korea. It is driving the situation of the Korean peninsula to a grave phase.

U.S.-ROK 'Aerial Espionage' Reported

SK2004075794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a war game against the North on April 17 and 18 in the sky above an area near the northern half of Korea with the mobilisation of more than 500 warplanes after creating electronic jamming, according to military sources.

Synchronising with this, an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane, a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and an RV-1 tactical reconnaissance plane committed aerial espionage on the whole area of the northern half of Korea, making flights above areas adjacent to the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line.

On April 17, the South Korean puppet army fired more than 250 shells into spots opposite the River Imjin and near the demilitarized zone. On April 18, the puppet army who took combat positions in Yangju and Yonchon Counties fired more than 1,000 large-calibre machine-gun bullets.

Groups in Japan Urge Anti-U.S., Antiwar Fight

SK2004153994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 (KNS-KCNA)—The Federation of South Koreans in Japan for Democracy and Reunification, the League of South Korean Youth in Japan and the Democratic Association of South Korean Women in Japan recently issued a joint appeal calling on the 70

million Koreans at home and abroad to unite firmly and rise up courageously in the anti-U.S., anti-war and anti-nuke struggle in order to defend the country and the nation from a scourge of war and achieve peace on the Korean peninsula and national reunification.

"The Koreans at home and abroad should lift up critical voices and hold higher the banner of struggle in order to oppose the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military maneuvers, check the shipment of Patriot missiles and frustrate all the military provocations," said the appeal. "All the Koreans who love the country and the nation should join hands and kindle the flames of the anti-U.S., anti-war and anti-nuke struggle."

Hanchongnyon Head Vows To 'Overthrow' Government

SK2104113994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—"The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) will lead the struggle for national reunification and the struggle against rice market opening, the action programme of Hanchongnyon for this year, representing the faith and confidence of fellow students confirmed at the congress of representatives," a South Korean newspaper quoted Kim Hyon-chun, chairman of the General Student Council of Pusan National University, as saying.

"The congress of representatives attended by more students than ever before was a meeting of unity in which differences in opinion and political view within Hanchongnyon were overcome for the sake of unity," said Kim Hyon-chun who was elected new chairman of Hanchongnyon at its congress of second-term representatives of held in Pusan early this month.

He declared, "Hanchongnyon will fight to overthrow the present 'government' which fooled and deceived the people through a secret concession at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations."

He said Hanchongnyon would concentrate on the struggle against rice market opening and the expansion of the movement for reunification through confederation and, at the same time, wage campus struggles including a solidarity struggle for securing educational finances this year.

Students Urged To Lead Anti-U.S. Struggle

SK2104113794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The youth and student department of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) called on the youth and students to invigorate the

anti-U.S., anti-fascist nation-saving struggle for independence, democracy and reunification on the 34th anniversary of the April 19 resistance, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

In a letter titled "Let Us Effect a New Leap in the Movement of Youth and Students" Hanminjon said for the present the South Korean youth and students must draw the masses into the movement "To Defend Our Rice," activate the struggle for a stop to the introduction of Patriot missiles and against the pressure on the North over nuclear inspection and against nuclear war exercises and expand this struggle to a struggle for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons and U.S. troops.

"The youth and students must attach primary importance to the struggle for the abolition of the 'National Security Law' and disbandment of repressive tools and, at the same time, staunchly wage the anti-fascist, anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle to frustrate parliamentary approval of the enforcement schedule of the Uruguay Round accord," said the letter.

Antigovernment Demonstration in ROK Reported

SK2104105094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Some 7,000 students of Korea University in Seoul held a rally on the campus playground on April 18 before going over to an anti—"government" demonstration on the lapse of 34 years since the April 19 popular uprising that led to the overthrow of the Syngman Rhee puppet regime, according to the South Korean KYONGHYANG daily news.

After the rally, the students burnt an effigy of the traitor Kim Yong-sam at the university gate and marched to the Suyu-tong cemetery where the April 19 martyrs lie buried, shouting "Renegotiate Uruguay Round Agreement!"

On the same day, the university students ran to and from the April 19 monument, 16 kilometres both ways, engraving on their minds the will of the students who died a heroic death on the streets of the April 19 resistance.

Student Protest at ROK Defense Ministry Noted

SK2104055394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Some 150 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) broke into the puppet defense ministry building where the U.S. Defense Secretary and the puppet defence minister were holding a war confab, and laid themselves down on the floor and staged a protest sit-in, shouting "We oppose Defense Secretary Perry's visit to South Korea", according to reports from Seoul.

They spread placards reading "We oppose the United States and Perry's visit" and "We do not want a war, Yankee go home".

Placards denouncing the United States for forcing South Korea to open the rice market and purchase weapons were also seen.

KCNA Reports Foreign Public Urges POW Release

SK2104111194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Foreign public demanded the release of An Hak-sop, a prisoner of war, who was a soldier of the Korean People's Army during the Korean war.

The Amnesty International recently called on the world people and human rights organisations to launch a campaign for his release.

The Central Committee of the Malian Red Cross in a statement of March 25 noted that though An Hak-sop was arrested while discharging his military duty, he was kept in South Korean prison for more than 40 years on a "spy" charge. The statement strongly urged the South Korean authorities to immediately release An Hak-sop and other prisoners of war and political prisoners.

The Senegalese organisation for friendship with the fraternal Korean people in a statement of April 6 branded the persecution of An Hak-sop as a wanton violation of human rights and affirmatively appraised the appeal of the Amnesty International for his release.

Repatriation of Former 'POW's' in South Urged

SK2104052194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454
GMT 21 Apr 94

["South Side Must Show Positive Response Without Delay"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean Red Cross must show an affirmative response without delay to our just demand for an immediate repatriation of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, prisoners of war, says a MINJU CHOSON analyst today.

Recalling that the acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross society sent a letter to the president of the South Korean Red Cross on April 19 once again urging an immediate repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, unconverted long-term prisoners now in detention in South Korea, the news analyst says:

Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan were taken prisoners by the South side during the Korean war. They, therefore, should have been treated as pows under provisions of the Geneva conventions adopted on August 12, 1949, and

repatriated to the northern half of the country at the time of the exchange of POWs right after the ceasefire.

As far as their "acceptance of citizenship" is concerned, it was against their will. They had no other choice but to do so for the sake of their existence since the South Korean puppet regime detained them, not returning them. They still do not want to live in South Korea, and they themselves have already requested the international committee of the Red Cross to help them return to the North. Their families and relatives in the northern half of the country are waiting on tiptoe for their return.

The misfortunes of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan must no more be prolonged, and their repatriation must be realized without delay and unconditionally.

ROK Police Surveillance on Campus Reported

SK2004153894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—A "national assemblyman" from the opposition Democratic Party of South Korea exposed the fact that the puppet police had installed watch posts around universities and was using them by stealth, according to a radio report from Seoul.

He said 29 posts around Kyonggi, Songkyunkwan and seven other universities in Seoul and other universities had so far been discovered.

These posts are disguised as "dwelling house," "store," "tong office" and "tentative building," the "National Assemblyman" said.

Daily Criticizes ROK Campus Surveillance

SK2104043194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424
GMT 21 Apr 94

["NODONG SINMUN Lambastes Surveillance on Campus in S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today condemns the surveillance on campus by the Kim Jong-sam regime styling itself a civilian "government."

The analyst says:

Recently, a democratic "national assemblyman" exposed at "the Home Affairs Committee of the National Assembly" the fact that "secret houses" for intelligence surveillance had been installed and operated around main universities and colleges throughout South Korea under the disguise of dwelling houses, tong offices, stores, etc. Even after the "civilian" regime made its appearance.

The surveillance on campus has been made in nasty ways such as watch from the "secret houses," the grasping of students' movement through agents of special intelligence rings planted at campus, watch and wire-tapping.

While talking about "civilian administration," "respect for human rights" and "halt to intelligence surveillance," the Kim Yong-sam group is still resorting to surveillance on campus. This indicates that they are a group of fascist dictators little different from former rulers.

Surveillance on campus, intelligence surveillance, is a product of the crisis of rule.

The Kim Yong-sam group must know clearly that though it is trying to save the crisis of its rule at the point of the bayonet, relying on surveillance on campus, intelligence surveillance, it will result only in precipitating its destruction.

Kim Il-song Poster Reported Hung in Seoul

SK2004233494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1550
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—A wall-paper praising the greatness of the great leader President Kim Il-song was put up on a building in Yongsan District, Seoul, South Korea, on his birthday, according to a report of radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The wall-paper is 2.1 metres in height and 3 metres in width. On the right upper side of it is a drawing of Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu and on its left upper side is Lake Paeknok on Mt. Halla, with a twin rainbow linking Chon and Paeknok Lakes.

Big purple letters reading "Congratulations and Best Wishes for Longevity to Kim Il-song on His Birthday!", fringed with white lines are written on the rainbow. On the right lower part of the wall-paper is a picture of the crane and on its left lower part is a picture of the pine tree and written in big letters between them are "A Long Life in Good Health to President Kim Il-song, the Sun of the Nation!"

Kimilsongia is painted along the frame of the wall-paper.

Written on its middle part are blue letters highly praising President Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, as:

- Founder of the great chuche idea, the guiding idea of the era of independence,
- Peerless patriot and legendary hero of the anti-Japanese war,
- Distinguished leader who has built socialism of chuche centred on the popular masses,
- Ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander who defeated U.S. and Japanese imperialisms,
- Incarnation of love for the people, father of the 70 million,
- Lodestar of national reunification, the centre of great national unity,
- The eldest veteran in world politics.

The wall paper concludes with the appeal "Let the Whole Nation, the Entire Fellow Countrymen, Unite Around

President Kim Il-song, the Peerless Hero, and Accelerate the Great Cause of National Reunification!"

Anniversary of 1948 Joint N-S Conference Marked

SK2004235594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1610
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—A meeting held here today marked the 46th anniversary of the historic joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organisations in North and South Korea.

The conference convened in Pyongyang in April 1948 discussed measures to frustrate the moves of the U.S. imperialists and the traitors for a permanent split of the nation and establish a unified democratic government with concerted efforts of the patriotic forces in North and South Korea.

In his historic report "The Political Situation in North Korea" at the conference, President Kim Il-song laid bare the sinister intention and true color of the U.S. imperialists and the traitors in South Korea seeking the division of Korea and indicated epoch-making nation-saving measures for all patriotic forces in North and South Korea to unite and fight a nationwide struggle with a common fighting goal to oppose the separate "elections" in South Korea and establish a unified democratic government.

Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, in his report at the meeting said the joint conference was a brilliant example of a political consultative conference in which representatives of political parties, groupings and strata in the North and South with different ideologies and political views sat together and discussed measures of a joint struggle.

"The conference convinced people that when the patriotic forces in the North and South united and waged a joint struggle, they could frustrate the nation-splitting moves of the U.S. imperialists and traitors and reunify the country," the reporter said.

He described "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" put forward by the respected leader President Kim Il-song last year as a banner of national unity calling for the great unity of the whole nation based on patriotism and the spirit of national independence and as a brilliant embodiment of the great all-embracing policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on magnanimously embracing even those who once committed crimes against the nation and achieving broad unity.

He said, "The South Korean rulers have ignored our sincere efforts for the great unity of the whole nation, turned North-South relations into hostile relations of

confrontation, totally blocked North-South dialogues and staged hysterical war exercises against the North, following outside forces."

"If the entire nation is to unite into one," he continued, "The principle of national independence must be observed. The Koreans at home and abroad must reject the Kim Jong-sam puppet clique's policy of depending on outside forces and vigorously fight to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone."

The reporter said the South Korean authorities, though belatedly, must discard the foolish dream of realising their sinister intention in reliance on outside forces, join hands with fellow countrymen from the position of national independence, accept the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and respond to the historic proposal for a national conference.

Signature Campaigns for Reunification Launched
SK2004151894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Signature campaigns supporting "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song are going on in various countries.

The Burundi-Korea Friendship Association decided to launch on April 1 a movement for collecting one million signatures in support of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the Korean nation.

As of April 7, the signature paper had been signed by the chairman of the Liberal Party of Burundi who is minister of institutional reforms and parliamentary relations, the secretary general of the parliament of Burundi, the mayor of Bujumbura, the governor of Gitega Province, the general secretary of the Burundi Federation of Liberal Trade Unions and other political, public and academic figures, more than 750,000 all told.

In Tanzania, the paper was signed by the general secretary of the Youth Union of Tanzania on behalf of the 800,000 members of the union and the vice minister of water, energy and mineral resources who is chairman of the Tanzania-Korea Friendship Association on behalf of the members of the association.

Meanwhile, a committee of the promoters of the signature campaign supporting the "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was formed in Mali on April 1.

Chondoists Call for National Unity Conference
SK2004080094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party in a statement April 19 called upon all the political parties, organisations and public figures in South Korea to make singlehearted efforts for the convocation of a national conference in order to arrange a new occasion of national unity and open a favourable phase for peaceful reunification.

He said that the proposal for convening a national conference which was made by a joint meeting of the government, political parties and public organisations of the DPRK on April 11 represents the desire of the entire fellow countrymen for the reunification of the country.

The conference will be a very significant meeting which makes it possible for the entire fellow countrymen in the North, the South and overseas to promote the great national unity and open a new phase of reunification by pooling their efforts and wisdom, irrespective of differences in ideology and idea, political view and religious belief, he said, and continued:

Those who do not want our nation to fall victims to big powers and who hope it will defend its dignity and live a happy life together in a reunified country must take the road of national unity, irrespective of their residence and occupation, and prove their patriotic will by unhesitatingly rushing out to the plaza of the national conference which will unfold a new chapter of reconciliation and unity.

We cannot tolerate the anti-national crimes of the South Korean authorities who dislike to shake hands with the fellow countrymen for national reconciliation and unity and are hatching up a plot to unleash a reckless nuclear war at the sacrifice of the interests of the nation in conspiracy with the outside forces.

The South Korean authorities must stop betraying the expectation of the whole nation for the convocation of the national conference and refrain from obstructing the participation of political parties, organisations and individual public figures of South Korea in a nationwide dialogue.

All the members of the Chondoist Chongu Party and Chondoists in the northern half of Korea will make every possible effort to hold the national conference to accelerate the reunification in the 90s by achieving the great unity of the nation in the intrinsic idea of Chondoism intended to promote welfare of the country and the nation, declared the spokesman.

Book on Unification Published in Other Languages

SK1804151594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Book "For a United Homeland" was published in foreign languages by the Korean Foreign Languages Publishing House.

The book consists of a preface and subtitles "For a United Homeland," "Let Us Burn Injustice and Live in Justice," "You Can Bind Her Body But You Cannot Destroy Her Hope for Reunification," "Bloom All Over, You the 'Flower of Reunification'" and so on.

The preface says that to end the tragedy of national division and reunify the divided country is the national desire of the Korean people and the nation's important task.

The book introduces the struggle in prison of Yim Su-kyong, a student of the university of foreign studies in South Korea, who has devoted herself to the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

It edits her letters and articles written in prison and letters of solidarity, support and encouragement sent to her by students and public figures of South Korea.

Plight of Former Guerrilla's Daughter Cited

SK1904123894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044
GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—The April issue of the South Korean magazine MAL carried an article by its contributing journalist Yim Su-kyong known as the "Flower of Reunification" under the title "Lonely Struggle of Kim Chi-hyon, a Guerrilla's Daughter, Against Disease".

According to the article, Kim Chi-hyon is a daughter of Kim Pyong-chu, a soldier of the Korean People's Army who was engaged in guerrilla activities in Mt. Chiri during the fatherland liberation war.

Kim Pyong-chu was born in Musan County, North Hamgyong Province, in the northern half of the country. While serving in the People's Army during the Korean war, he was active in Mt. Chiri together with Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who is now widely known as the incarnation of faith and will. He was arrested in 1954 and should have been returned home as a prisoner of war already long ago. But he was sentenced to 10 years in prison in South Korea for the reason of his guerrilla activity. After being released from prison, he was married to a lonely woman and they came to have two sons and two daughters.

Kim Chi-hyon, 29, is their first-born daughter.

When Yi In-mo was at death's door as an inpatient of the Pusan University Hospital after a cerebral haemorrhage,

Kim Chi-hyon got a leave and attended on him with utmost care for two months.

Now, the fragile girl is unhappy with a disease. She was hospitalized in June, 1992, her illness diagnosed as lymphatic tuberculosis. Last year, she had her ribs cut off in an operation, attacked with costal tuberculosis, and the inflammation has spread to the region of the vertebra. She cannot get on without the help of painkiller.

She has no relatives to support her in South Korea. Yet, she is more concerned for her family, for the living of her brothers and sister than her own pain.

Her father's friends, long-term prisoners who spent scores of years in prison, sympathizing with her, formed a "Society for Saving Kim Chi-hyon" and has been helping her.

In her article Yim Su-kyong says attention of many people is needed to save the girl who had to feel keenly the sufferings from division and the cold treatment for the mere reason that her father was a guerrilla who dedicated his youth to the cause of national reunification, the girl who is now fighting against a disease, being little different from a lonely orphan.

Chongnyon Officials Favor DFRF Appeal

SK2004155594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1540
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Senior officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) issued statements recently, supporting the March 29 appeal of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [DFRF] calling on all Koreans at home and abroad to turn out in a nationwide struggle to remove the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and pave the way for peace and reunification of the country.

Pae Pyong-tu, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon and chairman of the Tokyo metropolitan headquarters of Chongnyon, resolutely demanded that the Japanese Government authorities immediately stop the anti-DPRK, anti-Chongnyon acts they are committing in conspiracy with the South Korean puppets and that they sincerely apologize for the past crimes against Korea.

Om Chang-pom, director general of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, strongly urged the United States and the Japanese Government authorities to stop antagonising the DPRK and instigating the Kim Jong-sam puppet clique to anti-national crimes.

He vowed to mobilize all the Korean businessmen in Japan in a vigorous struggle to pave the way for peace and reunification of the country through great unity of the entire fellow countrymen.

So Cha-nyon, chairwoman of the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, expressed her firm determination to powerfully arouse all Korean women in Japan in the noble struggle under the banner of the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

Kim Yu-ui, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, Chon Se-kwon, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students studying at Japanese schools, and Chi Man-pok, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Aichi Prefectural Headquarters of Chongnyon, sharply denounced the U.S. imperialists' anti-DPRK campaign over the "nuclear issue" and the traitor Kim Yong-sam's anti-national crimes and expressed their resolve to more vigorously wage the patriotic struggle in solidarity with all Koreans at home and abroad and Japanese people.

Korean Youth in Japan Denounce U.S., ROK

SK2104050794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 (KNS-KCNA)—A central meeting of Korean youth and students in Japan was held at the Shiba Park in Tokyo on April 19 to denounce the nuclear war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and pave the way of peace of the country and its reunification on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising in South Korea.

Present were So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and some 2,000 Korean youths and students.

Pak Ku-ho, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, said in his report that the April 19 popular uprising was a historical resistance which demonstrated the indomitable fighting spirit of South Korean youth, students and people who rose up for an independent and national reunified country without flunkeyist traitors.

"The noble desire of the April 19 martyrs, youth and students and people has been ruthlessly trampled upon owing to the crimes of the U.S. imperialists and the flunkeyist traitor Kim Yong-sam puppet clique", he said, and evinced their resolve to make every possible effort for the convocation of a national conference proposed by the joint meeting of the government, political parties and public organisations of the DPRK on April 11.

Representatives of youth and Japanese friends made speeches.

At the end of the meeting, the participants staged a demonstration.

Anti-Chongnyon Demonstration in Tokyo Denounced

SK2104105694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—More than 70 members of 20 organisations under the "Kanto Council of the Great Japan Patriots Union", a rightwing organisation in Japan, on April 19 kicked up a row against the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) in front of the Korean hall where the central headquarters of Chongnyon is housed, and the Tokyo head office of the Korean Bank and the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

The rightwing gangsters riding in 30 loudspeaker cars committed rowdyism, letting loose an ugly torrent of words such as "Chongnyon, get out of Japan" and "North Korea, immediately stop nuclear threat to Japan".

This provocation came at a time when the Japanese reactionary authorities were zealously joining the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique in the anti-DPRK nuclear rackets. It can never be considered to be an accidental or isolated incident.

Chongnyon and the Korean residents in Japan are sternly denouncing this exceptional provocation, regarding it as an offspring of the Japanese authorities' hostile policy toward the DPRK and the anti-Chongnyon moves, not a self-determined act of rightwing gangsters.

Commentary Accuses Japan of Anti-Chongnyon Plot

SK2104071394 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Commentary by unidentified commentator: "Riots Caused by Behind-the-Scenes Instigation"]

[Text] On 19 April, approximately 70 members of the Kanto Council under the League of the Great Japanese Patriots, Japan's right-wing organization, committed provocative riots in front of the Korea Hall of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] Headquarters, the Korea Bank's main Tokyo office, and the Tonghae Corporation building, after getting off of 30 propaganda cars.

During the riots, they did not hesitate to make foolish, absurd, and violent remarks, saying that Chongnyon should leave Japan, that North Korea should suspend the nuclear threat to Japan, and that the Tonghae corporation should be dissolved. This is unprecedented and is very grave and provocative commotion against the republic and the Chongnyon, arousing our indignation.

Needless to say, these riots are the results of the Japanese authorities' policy of regarding Korea as an enemy, as

well as their plots against Chongnyon, not the mere violence committed by right-wing Japanese gangsters.

As is well known, the Japanese authorities' enthusiasm about fabricated propaganda, as well as a commotion of pressure against the republic under the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear issue in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is unprecedented. They have not hesitated in making such hostile remarks, saying that they will deal sternly with our republic, which is being threatened by nuclear weapons, under the pretext of the so-called nuclear threat, while talking in favor of the mastermind who creates the nuclear threat. Also, they have desperately attempted to achieve their goal of imposing sanctions on us.

The contents of the violent remarks made by the Japanese right-wing gangsters during their riots are the same as those of the Japanese authorities' hostile and vicious propaganda. Therefore, there is no doubt that the riots themselves are being committed by the Japanese authorities' behind-the-scenes instigation.

The issue of Japan's nuclear armaments, not the suspicion of our nonexistent nuclear weapon development, is the issue that has emerged as an important one in the international community today, and has reached a dangerous point. Much valid data has proven the above-mentioned facts. At the same time, impartial public opinion in the world has also sounded an alarm [kyongjong].

We do not pose a nuclear threat to Japan, but rather Japan's nuclear armaments have created a grave nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, the Japanese right-wing reactionaries have kicked up nuclear commotions against the republic as a thief turns on the victim with a club. Furthermore, they have committed acts of violence against Chongnyon and its other subsidiary organizations. Therefore, their such acts are aimed at distorting public opinion, as well as at justifying themselves for openly carrying out Japan's nuclear armaments, and thus propagate the nuclear threat on our republic.

As shown by the violent remarks made by the Japanese right-wing gangsters during the riots, this also aims at finding an excuse to suppress our patriotic compatriot organizations that are related to our republic, including Chongnyon.

Such criminal acts can never be forgiven, nor affect us. The patriotic activities by Chongnyon, a prestigious overseas organization of our republic, and its subsidiary organizations, should be guaranteed. If something happens to Chongnyon and its subsidiary organizations, this can be regarded as an act of doing harm to the republic [konghwagugedaehan chimhae haengwi]. The Japanese authorities should correctly assess the situation and should forge plans to prevent riots from occurring again in the future. Also, they should abandon their plots of nuclear armament and immediately stop engineering the anti-republic and anti-Chongnyon plots.

African Leaders Meet Foreign Ministry Delegation

SK1604144294

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0500 GMT on 14 April reports that Cameroonian Prime Minister Achidi Achu Simon met a DPRK Foreign Ministry delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il on 8 April.

The Cameroonian Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the development of friendly relations between Cameroon and the DPRK, said that he is well aware that nuclear energy in the DPRK is used for the people's welfare and the development of science rather than a military purpose, and hoped that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will be resolved peacefully through DPRK-U.S. talks.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0500 GMT on 14 April reports that Equatorial Guinean Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Bileka met with Vice Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il and delegation on 11 April.

Prime Minister Siale Bileka noted the satisfactory development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and hoped that the DPRK nuclear issue will be resolved peacefully through DPRK-U.S. talks rather than by means of pressure.

Newspapers Commemorate Denmark's National Day

SK1604113094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Newspapers here today dedicate signed articles to the national day of Denmark.

Denmark is developing relations with different countries, while opposing aggression, war and racism, MINJU CHOSON notes, and says:

Korea and Denmark are far away from each other geographically but their people have established bonds of friendship and are furthering support and cooperation.

The Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would further strengthen and develop in the idea of independence, peace and friendship, and wish the Danish people fresh success in their work for national prosperity.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the capital of this country.

Syrian Independence Day Noted

SK1704085594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate by-lined articles to the independence day of Syria.

The independence of Syria on April 17, 1946, was a fruition of the Syrian people's long-drawn-out struggle and an important event that opened a broad avenue for building an independent new society, MINJU CHOSON says, and goes on:

Now, the Syrian people are striving to attain the goal of defending the sovereignty of the country and their national dignity and building a prosperous new society.

They are making efforts to retake the occupied arab territories and find a comprehensive, fair solution of the Middle East issue.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the successes made by the Syrian people in their endeavours for the independent development and prosperity of the country, valiantly smashing the ceaseless aggressive and interventionist moves of the enemies.

Both Korea and Syria are non-aligned countries in Asia, and the peoples of the two countries forged bonds of friendship and have strengthened and developed them.

The Syrian Government and people express support and solidarity for the Korean people's just struggle to defend and exalt the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses and achieve an independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Syria will further expand and develop, and sincerely wish the Syrian people great success in their future strivings for the territorial integrity and prosperity of the country.

Anniversary of Iranian Army Day Recognized

O Chin-u Sends Greetings

SK1804053794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, Minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Mohammad Foruzandeh, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Iranian Army Day.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and Armies of the two countries would steadily be consolidated and developed and wished the Iranian minister bigger success in his work to increase the defence capabilities.

Military Attache Hosts Party

SK1904052494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Ali Asghar Ghasemi, military attache of the Iranian Embassy in Korea, arranged a party in Pyongyang on the evening of April 18 on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Iranian Army Day.

Invited there were vice marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin, generals and officers of the KPA, foreign diplomatic envoys and military attaches of foreign embassies in Pyongyang.

Also present on invitation was Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean national democratic front.

Present were the Charge d'Affaires ad interim and officials of the Iranian Embassy.

Speeches were exchanged.

Mali-DPRK Friendship Parliamentary Group Formed

SK1804110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The Mali-Democratic People's Republic of Korea friendship parliamentary group was formed at the National Assembly of Mali on March 7.

Members of the National Assembly of Mali Oumar Kane and Wadessone Ag Simitala were elected chairman and vice-chairman of the group respectively.

The group involves 69 of the 116 members of the National Assembly of Mali.

Kim Pyong-sik Meets With Russian Party Guests

SK1804053294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, on April 17 met and had a friendly conversation with A.D. Vengerovsky, vice-chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and his entourage.

The Russian guests said that it was their great honor to visit Korea at the most pleasant time when the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was celebrated.

Though our stay is not long, we saw at first hand the achievements made by the Korean people under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, they said.

They said they would strive to develop the friendly relations between Russia and Korea.

SPA Chairman Meets Russian State Duma Official

SK1804113894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], met and conversed with A.D. Vengerovsky, deputy speaker of the State Duma of the Federation Council of Russia, and his entourage in a friendly atmosphere at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Newspaper Marks Zimbabwe National Day

SK1904103294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 19 Apr 94

[“MINJU CHOSON Observes National Day of Zimbabwe”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today dedicates an article to the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The article says:

In the past the Zimbabwean people have made strenuous efforts to remove the consequences of the colonial rule and build a peaceful and united new Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, as a non-aligned country, is striving to establish a new international order against aggression, war and racism.

The peoples of Korea and Zimbabwe have friendly bonds.

The Korean people believe that their friendly and cooperative relations with the Zimbabwean people will grow stronger and develop in the future in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

They extend congratulations to the Zimbabwean people who are greeting a significant day in their national history, and wish the Zimbabwean people great success in their efforts to build a prosperous new Zimbabwe.

Papers Mark Cuba's Bay of Pigs Anniversary

SK1904103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014
GMT 19 Apr 94

[“Spirit of Playa Giron Still Alive”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate signed articles to the 33rd anniversary of the victory in the Playa Giron battle.

The Cuban people's victory in the Playa Giron battle showed that any formidable imperialist enemy can never bring to their knees the people who have risen as one, rallied close around their leader, convinced of the justness of their cause, stresses MINJU CHOSON.

Recalling that after the battle the fraternal Cuban people have defended the gains of revolution and stepped up socialist construction, valiantly smashing the never-ceasing aggression and intervention, subversive activities and sabotages of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, the paper says:

The Cuban people under the correct guidance of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro are notching up success in different sectors of the national economy including industry, agriculture, education and health service, and working hard to stabilize and improve the people's living.

They are striving to get the U.S. troops withdrawn from Guantanamo and to preserve peace in Central America and Caribbean region.

The Korean people rejoice as over their own over the achievements gained by the fraternal Cuban people in their struggle for the defence of the country, revolution and socialism and for the independent development and prosperity of the country and extend militant solidarity to them in their righteous struggle.

They are happy to have such courageous and honest friends as the Cuban people in Latin America.

They wish the Cuban people greater success in their efforts to build socialism, believing that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop in conformity with the aspirations and desire of the Korean and Cuban peoples.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed article says that the Cuban people are now pressing forward the revolution and construction with redoubled efforts under the difficult conditions of the “special period of peace time”. It stresses that no one can stop the Cuban people from advancing in an indomitable revolutionary spirit.

Anniversary of Relations With Indonesia Noted**Papers Mark Anniversary**

SK1604112894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Newspapers here today dedicate signed articles to the 30th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between Korea and Indonesia.

Over the past 30 years after the establishment of diplomatic relations the friendly relations between the two countries have developed favourably, NODONG SINMUN notes, and says:

The two countries, member nations of the non-aligned movement in Asia have supported each other politically and cooperated with each other economically. The friendly relations between Korea and Indonesia are

conducive to building a new society in the two countries as well as an independent and peaceful, new Asia.

The Indonesian Government is steadfastly keeping to an independent stand, rejecting the imperialists' intervention in its internal affairs.

Indonesia, the chairman state of the non-alignment, is playing a positive role in broadening and developing this movement, and, together with Asean nations, are working hard to ensure Asean prosperity and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Korean people fully support the principle and stand maintained by the Indonesian people in building a new society.

MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Indonesia would further develop and wish the Indonesian people greater success in their future work for national prosperity.

Foreign Ministry Hosts Gathering

SK2004083294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged a friendly gathering on April 19 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia.

Present on invitation were Indonesian Ambassador to Korea R. Muhamed Muharam Sumadipraja and embassy officials.

Present were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il and other officials concerned.

The participants played amusement games and had a conversation in a friendly atmosphere.

PRC Embassy Officials Tour 'Changdok School'

SK2104050994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—A friendly gathering with officials of the Chinese Embassy here took place at the Changdok School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, on April 20.

Invited there were officials of the Chinese Embassy.

On hand were Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and teachers and pupils of the school.

The participants went round the Changdok School associated with the revolutionary history of the great leader President Kim Il-song and saw an art performance by school children.

They had a friendly talk.

Kazakh Visitor Contrasts Barrage, 'Concrete Wall'

SK2104113694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—P.V. Svoik, co-chairman of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, told KCNA that the concrete wall artificially blocking the travel of fellow countrymen and bisecting the country must be pulled down at once.

Saying he had seen the West Sea barrage and the concrete wall during his visit to Korea, he noted:

"The wonderful West Sea barrage is a peaceful structure while the concrete wall built in the area south of the military demarcation line is a military setup for division. They represent a sharp contrast.

"The gigantic barrage was built by the Korean people with their own design, technology and labour. This shows how powerful the economic potential of Korea is. The successful completion of this vast nature-harnessing project is a result of the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader.

"While seeing the West Sea barrage built under the far-reaching plan to completely free the people from the fetters of nature and the concrete wall, a military setup bisecting the territory and the nation, we could know clearly who truly wants peace and reunification."

Carazo, Betancourt Write on Behalf of Visitors

Send Thanks to Kim Chong-il

SK2104052294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter of thanks sent by Rodrigo Carazo, ex-president of Costa Rica and chairman of the International Commission for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, and Antonio Betancourt, deputy secretary general of the Federation for World Peace and executive director of the Summit Council for World Peace, on behalf of the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries.

Expressing thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the bottom of their hearts for his invitation and hospitality, the letter dated April 19 says:

We came here in the interest not only of regional peace and stability but ultimately of world peace and stability.

To achieve this it was imperative to have the presence not only of world leaders comprising the Summit Council's International Commission for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, but of world media, consisting of THE

WASHINGTON TIMES, CNN and NHK, who would reach out to all corners of the world, and give unbiased, fair, objective and respectful reporting covering your side of the story on the different issues that divide world opinion. These media came not only to hear your views directly but to report on the astounding progress this nation has made through self-reliance, rebuilding itself out of the ashes of war. The reports we have heard from around the world are that everyone is absolutely happy with the constructive media coverage generated from this trip. It has certainly brought new light and challenged the status quo of misinformation and distortion.

We feel very happy and satisfied with our work. We leave with a renewed commitment to continue our work for the peaceful resolution of the difficulties on the Korean peninsula.

Send Thanks to Kim Il-song

SK2104044994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a letter of thanks sent by Rodrigo Carazo, Ex- President of Costa Rica and chairman of the International Commission for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, and Antonio Betancourt, deputy secretary general of the Federation for World Peace and executive director of the Summit Council for World Peace, on behalf of the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries.

Extending thanks to President Kim Il-song from the bottom of their hearts for his invitation and hospitality, the letter dated April 19 says:

We came here in the interest not only of regional peace and stability but ultimately of world peace and stability.

To achieve this it was imperative to have the presence not only of world leaders comprising the summit council's international commission for the peaceful Reunification of Korea, but of world media, consisting of the THE WASHINGTON TIMES, CNN, and NHK, who would reach out to all corners of the world, and give unbiased, fair, objective and respectful reporting covering your side of the story on the different issues that divide world opinion. These media came not only to hear your views directly but to report on the astounding progress this nation has made through self-reliance, rebuilding itself out of the ashes of war. The reports we have heard from around the world are that everyone is absolutely happy with the constructive media coverage generated from this trip.

We feel very happy and satisfied with our work. We leave with a renewed commitment to continue our work for the peaceful resolution of the difficulties on the Korean peninsula.

Former Heads of State Report Thoughts on Visit

SK2004090094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506
GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Members of the Pyongyang-visiting group consisting of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries gave their impressions of Korea after their 8-day visit to Korea. Ex-president of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio, heading the group, said beautiful Korea and its industrious and valiant people gave them great inspiration and strength. He said he would make sustained efforts in the future for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Former Egyptian Prime Minister Aziz Sedky stressed all the functions held in Korea this time on the occasion of the 82nd birthday of His Excellency President Kim Il-song well showed how high the international position of Korea is.

"The Western clamour about your country's war preparations is a lie," he said, adding that the people of Korea are expediting peaceful construction, not war preparations.

Senior Vice-president of the CNN International Eason Jordan said he was deeply concerned for the situation on the Korean peninsula when he was coming to Korea, but, his feelings of strain and apprehensions have evaporated while witnessing the life of the Korean people.

Executive director of the summit council for World Peace Antonio Betancourt said he expresses deep thanks to the great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the warm hospitality accorded them. The Korean people are well aware of wherein their life lies, he said, and added that their life lies only in defending the ideology of the great leader and the dear leader and upholding their leadership.

Visitors Report Impressions of Country

SK2104105294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Former member of the parliament of France and member of the European Parliament Pierro Ceyrac and president of the Summit Council for World Strategy of Japan Hirogatsu Ota, who were members of the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of various countries, were interviewed by KCNA before leaving Korea.

Saying he was deeply impressed during his Korea visit, Pierro Ceyrac noted:

"What I want to stress is that socialism of Korea is fundamentally different from the social systems in other countries. I mean that socialism of Korea is based on deep-rooted love between the leaders and the people, and love of the people for their country. Korea is the only

country of this kind, I think. "Such unity and such patriotism of the Korean people strike me with admiration. As she has such unity and patriotism, Korea is very strong and afraid of nothing."

Hirogatsu Ota said he witnessed the looks of the working people joyfully spending the auspicious April holiday. He said:

"The sight of the people of whole country significantly celebrating the birthday of the great leader gave me the impression that the whole country which is one family was spending the holiday together with the father. In a word, Korea can be said to be a large harmonious family.

"Witnessing all this, I gained a better knowledge of the healthy social and moral ethos and the peaceful and harmonious social atmosphere of Korea."

Kim Il-song Meets Korean Reporter From U.S.

*SK2104114094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on April 21 received a Korean woman reporter, Mun Myong-cha residing in the United States, who is on a visit to the homeland.

Present on the occasion was Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Mun Myong-cha warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and a long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and conversed with her in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

He arranged a luncheon for her.

Kim Il-song's Works Published, Reported Abroad

*SK2104110394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song's famous work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was published in booklet by the Kultura Publishing House of Yugoslavia, the National Publishing House of Laos, the Sofia Printing Combine of Bulgaria and the Litho Printing House of Tanzania.

A detailed gist of the work was reported by the Burkinafabe paper *OBSERVATEUR*, the Madagascan papers *IMONGO VAOVAO* and *BASY VAVA*, the Palestinian magazine *PALESTINE AL SAURA*, the Nepalese paper *ASTITO*, the radio of Equatorial Guinea and radio *Citta Aperta* of Italy.

The Russian papers *ROSSISKAYA PRAVDA* and *PATRIOT*, the Egyptian paper *AL TAAWON*, the Peruvian paper *LA REPUBLICA* and the Syrian paper *SYRIA TIMES* carried a detailed gist of President Kim Il-song's letter to the national agricultural conference "for the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the socialist rural theses."

Kim Il-song Works From 1940's Published

*SK1804111294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Volumes 8 and 9 of "Complete Collection of Kim Il-song's Works" were brought out recently by the Workers' Party of Korea publishing house.

The Vol. 8 contains 84 classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song including reports, speeches and talks from May to December 1948, and the Vol. 9, 71 classical works from January to July 1949.

Works consummate the outstanding ideas, theories and policies of firmly building the internal revolutionary forces and pushing ahead with the revolution and construction which President Kim Il-song laid down with his scientific penetration into the development of the internal and external situation and the requirement of the development of the revolution in those days, and the achievements and experiences gained in the work for their materialization.

The work "On Improving and Strengthening the Work of the Party Organizations" and other works indicate the necessity and tasks of strengthening the Workers' Party of Korea, the general staff of the revolution, and ways to carry them out.

"Officials of People's Power Bodies Must Devote Themselves to the People", "Duties of the Chairman of a County People's Committee" and other works expound the tasks and ways for officials of power bodies to direct big efforts to education, commerce, health service and economic affairs and thus further improve the people's living standard and thoroughly defend and ensure all the interests and rights of the people, with the high consciousness of being faithful servants for the people.

Besides, the complete collection gives answers to the questions of achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, enhancing the role of working people's organisations, the transmission belt of the party, strengthening friendship and solidarity with the progressive people of the world, and other theoretical and practical questions arising in all domains of the revolution and construction.

Zimbabwe Party Officials Give Kim Il-song Gift

*SK2104043894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift jointly sent by the

political and cultural department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front [PF], the Zimbabwe-Korea Solidarity and Friendship Association and the Zimbabwean National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea on the occasion of his birthday.

The director of the political and cultural department of the C.C., the Zanu-PF, N.T. Mawema, handed the gift to the DPRK ambassador to Zimbabwe.

Yi In-mo Visits Kim Il-song's Childhood Home

*SK1604112294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, visited Mangyongdae on April 15.

Welcomed by a large number of people of all walks of life, school youth and children and overseas compatriots, Yi In-mo entered the courtyard of the old home in Mangyongdae with his family and saw round with keen interest the historical mementoes which have been preserved with much care.

He posed for a souvenir photograph in front of the old home and planted azalea.

After visiting Mangyongdae, he wrote in visitor's book that Mangyongdae is the native home of the great leader and his home dear to heart and a nostalgia place of the world people.

Friday, Yi In-mo visited the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansudae hill to lay a floral basket and sincerely wish him long life and good health.

Observances Abroad of Kim Il-song Birthday Noted

*SK2104105394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Functions were held in different countries in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Celebration meetings took place in Lahore of Pakistan, Cairo of Egypt and Kaloper of Bulgaria.

S.M. Massud, former minister of justice and parliamentary affairs of the government of Pakistan, said in his speech at the meeting:

President Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea and has converted Korea into a powerful socialist country independent in politics, self-sustaining in the economy and self-reliant in national defence by brilliantly applying the idea.

The Korean people under his wise leadership are successfully accomplishing the cause of socialism.

The present is the era of independence.

No nation has the right to dominate other nations.

Korea must be reunified by the efforts of the Korean people themselves.

April 15 celebration seminars and lecture meetings were held at the group for the study of the chuche idea of Comrade Kim Il-song in Enmore, Guyana, the Bangladesh self-reliance research centre, the society for the study of the chuche idea of Guinean youth and students, the Malian group for the study of Kimilsongism-Kimchongilism, the jewel processing station and wooden furniture factory in Maputo, Mozambique and a teachers hall in Peru.

Textile Workers Pledge Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

*SK2104050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Workers and trade union members in Pyongyang held a meeting at the Pyongyang textile machine factory on April 20 to pledge their loyalty on the lapse of 33 years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il left undying footprints at the factory.

In the spring of 1961, the dear leader stayed at the Pyongyang textile machine factory for nearly 20 days, working with workers as an operator of lathe No. 26 and rousing them to implement the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, and set a noble example of equipment management and kindled the first torch of the model machine movement.

The speakers at the meeting said this opened up a new history of the communistic mass movement for loving and managing machines in Korea.

For its great vitality the "loyal model machine movement for emulating lathe No. 26" has been rapidly expanded and developed in all domains and units of the national economy, gripping the hearts of the masses, they said. They called for glorifying the exploits performed by the dear leader in the management of equipment.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

Loyalty of Army to Kim Chong-il, Party Cited

*SK2104105794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028
GMT 21 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The Korean People's Army [KPA] is never afraid of any formidable imperialist enemy, confident that it will always emerge victorious as Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il is leading the revolutionary Armed Forces with his outstanding intelligence and ever-victorious commandership and the whole Army is filled with loyalty to the party and the leader.

The People's Army does not waver at all although the imperialists and reactionaries are trying their hardest to stifle the DPRK and destroy the Korean-style socialist system.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in an article headlined "Our People's Army is Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Unfailingly Loyal to Comrade Supreme Commander".

The article goes on:

It is a great honour and pride of the Korean people that they have the invincible revolutionary Armed Forces the whole of which is pervaded by intense loyalty to respected comrade supreme commander and whose entire officers and men are fighting vigorously, firmly rallied around comrade supreme commander.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"It is a greatest honour and pride of our party to have the People's Army that resolutely defends the party and the leader and implements to the end the party's orders and instructions at whatever cost".

The invincible might of the KPA lies in that the whole Army has the unshakable faith and will to become a gun and bomb decisively defending Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il and a revolutionary Army trait of implementing his orders and instructions to the end even by going through thick and thin without hesitation has been thoroughly established in the whole Army.

All men of the KPA from generals to soldiers become a fort and shield to defend respected comrade supreme commander.

The officers and men of the People's Army are now taking to their hearts the motto of loyalty "We serve comrade supreme commander!".

The KPA does not know the slightest deviation or vacillation in upholding the leadership of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty and is resolute and valiant like an angry lion in defending the authority of its leader.

The pledge of faith made by Pak Yong-chol and his seven brothers to become eight rifles and eight bombs decisively defending Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il, and the resolve of the seven brothers and sisters of Yi Chang-ung to be genuine revolutionaries like Yi In-mo defending General Kim Chong-il with rifles in the van eloquently show how warm and resolute the faith of the officers and men of the KPA in upholding the leader is.

The revolutionary Army moral of the KPA represents the spirit of soldiers to unconditionally carry out the orders and instructions of Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il even by dedicating their bodies as human bullets.

Proud looks of the KPA lie in the unity in one ideology and will and the oneness of action whereby the entire Army moves as one on orders from Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il, and the well-regulated order of action in which it follows his orders and instructions even if the sky sank to the ground and the ground collapsed.

The KPA's revolutionary moral is being displayed to the full not only in performing military duties but also in upholding the grand plan of socialist construction and guidance of comrade supreme commander.

The invincible might of the KPA also lies in the beautiful tradition of Army-civilian unity highly displayed among the entire officers and men who take a warm care of and love the people and unhesitatingly lay down their lives for them.

All the officers and men of the KPA are devoting their all to crystallizing the idea of Army-civilian unity set forth by Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il and are becoming an integrated whole with the people.

Holding in high esteem Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il and upholding his leadership with loyalty is an inseparable noble ideological and moral trait of the officers and men of the People's Army, a revolutionary trait prevailing in the whole Army.

As they have invincible ranks, the heroic Korean People's Army capable of defeating any formidable enemy, the Korean people are always confident and convinced that they can accomplish the socialist cause of chuche.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Various Work Units

SK1704083394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the "February 17 shock brigades of scientists and technicians" that had registered signal successes in different units.

The scientists and technicians who had been dispatched to the Sangwon cement complex completed a calcinating method by use of domestic fuel and raw materials, and those who had been dispatched to the university of printing engineering developed different kinds of electronic photostat developers by using domestic raw materials.

Scientists and technicians assigned to the task of mapping out a general plan of forest construction successfully worked out a long-term general plan that can fully ensure the supply of timber and raw materials needed for the nation's economic development and the betterment of the people's living.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to officials and units, including the Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province, committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the South Pyongan provincial art troupe and the

Kujang district coal mining complex, who had rendered sincere aid to the soldiers participating in the construction of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan express highway.

Kim Chong-il's Care for Elderly Highlighted

*SK1704085694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813
GMT 17 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Long-lived people are blessed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il takes a warm care of them, sending them birthday tables.

Among them is an old woman surnamed Kwon living in Hoeyang County, Kangwon Province.

Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centennial birthday table to her on April 16, wishing her good health and happiness.

Born into a poor peasant family in April 1894, she could enjoy a worthy life only after the people became masters of the country.

She expressed deep thanks to the dear leader, saying poor people had to die when they fell ill, feeling bitter against the society, during the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, but after the liberation of the country old people enjoy a long life in good health without paying even a penny benefitting by the health policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Daily Marks Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Work

*SK2004155094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1534
GMT 20 Apr 94*

[“Work Indicating Way of Rearing Chuche-type Revolutionaries”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 20th anniversary of the publication of the famous work “Let Us Cherish Loyalty to the Party and the Leader as Our Revolutionary Faith and Obligation” by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In the work published on April 20, 1974, Comrade Kim Chong-il emphasized the need to invigorate the efforts for establishing the monolithic ideological system of the party in keeping with the developing reality in which the whole society was being modelled on the chuche idea. He said what was essential in this was to rear the officials, party members and working people to be chuche-type revolutionaries unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader.

The work gives a comprehensive exposition of the reason why loyalty to the party and the leader is the main trait of the chuche-type revolutionaries, the basic characteristics of loyalty to the party and the leader, concrete tasks and ways of cherishing it as the revolutionary faith and

obligation and all other theoretical and practical matters arising in rearing revolutionaries of chuche type.

In a by-lined article titled “Immortal Work Guiding People To Cherish Loyalty to the Leader as Their Faith and Obligation” the paper says:

The work serves as a revolutionary textbook of our people in struggle and life because it fully reflects the noble aspiration and demand of the chuche-type revolutionaries to absolutely trust and follow the party and the leader.

It is the main point of the work that only those who cherish loyalty to the party and the leader as their revolutionary faith and obligation can remain infinitely faithful to them through generations in any adversities.

The validity and vitality of the idea expounded by the work have been clearly proved through our revolutionary practice over the past two decades.

Today our people are staunchly advancing along the road of socialism indicated by the leader, regarding loyalty to the party and the leader as their life and blood. Their loyalty to the party and the leader is underlined by their faith, conscience, morality and everyday life. It is also their purest ideological feelings and something undisputable which remains unchanged in any circumstances. There is no such a people in the world as the Korean people, who remain loyal to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the illustrious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with their faith and obligation.

Coal Production Reported Increasing

*SK2004154294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524
GMT 20 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Coal mines of Korea are effecting innovations in production.

The Sunchon District coal mining complex has produced 100,000 more tons of coal in the first three or so months of this year than in the like period last year, and is overfulfilling its daily production quotas, having set itself a goal of carrying out its assignments for this month ahead of the set time.

The Tokchon District coal mining complex has increased the tunnelling speed 1.3 times as against the same period of the previous month and is putting out more coal than planned by actively introducing new technical innovation proposals.

The Pukchang District coal mining complex is effecting innovations in tunnelling and coal production by securing several thousand cubic metres of wooden props and more blasting materials by its own efforts.

Coal mines under the Kaechon District coal mining complex including Namjon, Pongchon and Choyang coal mines are producing more coal by scrupulously organising and commanding production.

South Korea

DPRK Official on Inspections, U.S. Talks Link

SK2004001994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0005 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 20 (YONHAP)—An official at the North Korean mission to the United Nations reiterated Tuesday that Pyongyang will not permit further inspections of its nuclear sites before a third round of Washington-Pyongyang high level talks is held.

"We received all the inspections needed to guarantee the continuity of safeguards that have been agreed with the United States," said the North Korean official. "We are willing to discuss the issue of additional, regular and special inspections of our nuclear facilities and Pyongyang's return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) once the third-round talks are held."

Asked about the possibility of resuming working-level meetings for further high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang, the official said that "it is not clear for now at least. The important thing is that the United States suspend Team Spirit (the annual South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise) as Washington agreed Feb. 25 and hold the third round of talks."

Proposal on Observing Fuel Rod Exchange Noted

SK2104114394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1133 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Paris, April 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea sent a message to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday [20 April] proposing that IAEA inspectors witness the upcoming change of fuel bars at their 5-megawatt atomic reactor in Yonbyon.

The message said the fuel bars of the atomic reactor would be changed in a few weeks.

Sources in Vienna said the proposal was North Korea's first response toward the demand by the world community for additional international inspections of their nuclear facilities.

In the message, North Korea did not say whether they would accept additional inspections of six other nuclear facilities.

North Korea claims that the atomic reactor has been in operation since 1986 and that they never changed its fuel bars after 1989 when some fuel bars were changed due to a mechanical trouble, during which they said they extracted 90 grams of plutonium on an experimental basis.

A YONHAP report from Berlin said IAEA spokesman Hans Meyer confirmed that a contact of some sort was going on with North Korea.

He said that IAEA Director-General Hans Blix would decide whether to accept the North Korean proposal probably Thursday afternoon.

The IAEA had an emergency meeting Thursday morning to review the North Korean overture, the report said.

IAEA Examining 'Real Intention'

SK2104102994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by Cha Man-sum from Vienna]

[Text] With North Korea's positive reaction to the resumption of inspections, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is having contacts with North Korea to smooth the way for inspections of North Korea, IAEA spokesman Hans Meyer disclosed on 21 April.

The spokesman, however, declined to disclose whether the North side's letter hinting of the resumption of inspections implies additional overall inspections [chuga chonmyon sachal] of the radiochemical laboratory or the replacement of the surveillance equipment—as has been insisted by North Korea.

The IAEA is closely examining to what level North Korea would accept inspections and the real intention behind its hint of resumption of inspections.

The IAEA, while delivering the resolution adopted at the special Governors meeting held last March, had strongly called on the North side to accept additional inspections of the radiochemical laboratory and stressed the necessity of replacing the surveillance equipment, including the reloading of film in surveillance cameras.

DPRK Said Preparing Economy for UN Sanctions

SK2004232594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by NAEWOE News Agency]

[Text] North Korea stressed that in preparation for economic sanctions against the North as a result of its refusal of nuclear inspections, it will strengthen independence in its economy so that its economy can be self-reliant in the future under any situation.

In yesterday's special article [nonsol], North Korean Central Broadcast Radio [chungang pangsong] reported that North Korea will win a brilliant victory in implementing new economic strategies under the leadership of Kim Chong-il, and that the economic tasks promoted by North Korea can be carried out as long as there is a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Perry Speaks on DPRK Nuclear Capability
SK2104025094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea will soon have access to enough plutonium to make four or five nuclear bombs once it removes spent fuel from one of its nuclear reactors, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said Thursday.

The communist country will have to remove fuel from its 5-megawatt reactor "within weeks," Perry said at a news conference here. "The fuel will provide sufficient plutonium to make four to five nuclear bombs."

"We believe it's critical that this operation is supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," he said.

Emphasizing that Patriot missiles are purely a defensive system against conventional weapons, Perry made clear the anti-missile missiles will not be withdrawn from South Korea even if the tension over North Korea's nuclear program subsides.

The IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, first estimated that North Korea would have to change the nuclear fuel rods at its reactor last summer.

It is believed that North Korea has yet to change the rods, and the IAEA says it must be present when the procedure takes place to verify whether the Stalinist state extracted more plutonium from the fuel than it reported to the agency in the past.

While Pyongyang's secretive nature rules out an exact assessment of its nuclear status, Washington can say "with confidence" that "North Korea has a major nuclear weapons program under way," Perry said when asked to comment on how advanced the program is.

Pyongyang has the 25-megawatt reactor, a 200-megawatt reactor under construction, a radiochemical laboratory and a high-explosives testing facility, according to the secretary.

"The only possible explanation for these facilities is a major nuclear weapons program," said Perry.

The United States can only guess how much nuclear fuel was diverted in the past, he said. "We estimate that there was enough plutonium in that fuel to make one or two bombs. We estimate they probably have the capability to convert that plutonium into bombs. We estimate they have had enough time by now to succeed in doing that."

Perry flew into Seoul Tuesday for a visit centering on analyzing, planning and preparing for future developments following North Korea's refusal to allow full IAEA inspections last month.

Just a day earlier, Perry and his South Korean counterpart Yi Pyong-tae announced they would go ahead with

the annual "Team Spirit" military exercise in November unless the inspections were concluded successfully.

Calling the joint maneuvers a defensive exercise, Perry said the two countries still hope that diplomatic persuasion can bring North Korea to comply with the inspections.

"We plan to pursue diplomacy firmly and patiently unless there is no hope for success in diplomacy anymore," he said. "If that happens, we go together to the UN to impose sanctions on North Korea."

Perry also defended the Patriot deployment, describing the system as purely defensive which "has no offensive capability at all."

"... It is part of a regular modernization program that has been planned actually for several years, and there is no reason to withdraw," he said.

"It's not here because of the nuclear weapons program. It is designed to defend against conventional Scud attacks."

Commitment to Seoul 'Remains Firm'

SK2104020994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, who is visiting our country, held a new conference at Hotel Shilla this morning and said that the U.S. commitment to security in the ROK remains firm, and stressed that the war risk on the Korean peninsula is not so high as the general public fears.

Here is reporter Pak Chan-uk on the telephone in front of Hotel Shilla:

[Pak] U.S. Defense Secretary Perry said at a news conference which just ended a while ago that although political tension is rising on the Korean peninsula, there is no military tension. Secretary Perry also stressed that the U.S. commitment to the defense of the ROK remains firm and that the United States would never make a mistake of provoking or igniting a war on the Korean peninsula.

As announced by the ROK Defense Ministry on 20 April, Secretary Perry said the ROK and the United States agreed to conduct the Team Spirit exercise in November and continue to make related plans and preparations for the exercise.

Regarding the North Korean nuclear issue, Secretary Perry stressed that it is certain that North Korea is pursuing the development of nuclear weapons but that the basic stance of the ROK and the United States is that the issue should be resolved through diplomatic and peaceful efforts.

Secretary Perry said an emergency communications network between the defense ministers of the ROK and the

United States will be installed for close coordination on preparations against any tension or military threat on the Korean peninsula.

Secretary Perry said he invited ROK Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae to visit the United States in the near future to discuss ROK-U.S. cooperation once again.

After the news conference, Secretary Perry will visit ROK and U.S. Army units to check the military readiness posture. He is scheduled to leave for Japan at 5 PM [8:00 GMT] today.

Patriot Deployment, Team Spirit Issue Viewed

SK2104082994

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports published in Seoul vernacular newspapers on 21 April reacting to the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and the deployment of Patriot missiles.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "North Korea Should Understand the Significance of the Decision on Team Spirit." Asserting that the most effective means to counter the North Korean nuclear issue is firm coordination between the ROK and the United States, the editorial writes military cooperation between the two countries is imperative in the current situation.

The editorial welcomes the decision of ROK and U.S. defense ministers to strengthen combined war preparedness writing that it is a very timely tuning of strategy as suspicions surrounding North Korea's nuclear development have not been cleared.

Defining the resumption of the Team Spirit exercise as an "inevitable decision," the editorial stresses that "such a security coordination system should remain firm until it is confirmed that North Korea has no nuclear weapons" and that "North Korea should stop trying to avoid nuclear inspections with various excuses."

The editorial shows concern over foreign reports that the United States asked the ROK to be armed with modern weapons as the selection of weapons should be decided by the ROK, not the United States.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Reinforcement of Defense Posture is Fundamental."

The editorial welcomes the decision of the ROK and U.S. defense ministers to resume the Team Spirit exercise and to reinforce the combined forces saying that it was a "natural," "inevitable," and "appropriate" decision.

Regarding the issue of purchasing more modern arms, the editorial writes the decision should be made according to ROK's conditions and abilities, adding that

the Yulgok project may be adjusted but should not be influenced by the U.S. defense industry's demands.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Unlimited Arma-ment Competition Is Not Appropriate."

Consenting to the theory that military superiority deters war, the editorial writes, however, making the Korean peninsula an unlimited exhibition place of modern arms cannot be tolerated.

Noting the remarks of Edward Warner, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, that modern heavy arms will be deployed to the ROK by the end of the summer, the editorial writes the United States is trying to deploy another new weapon after safely deploying Patriot missiles as a result of the "sea of fire" remarks by North Korea.

The editorial writes the current situation cannot be described as a crisis, citing Kim Il-song's recent appeasement remarks and the fact that South Koreans were not threatened by the "sea of fire" remarks. The editorial notes that it is the United States that more frequently talks about the possibility of war on the Korean peninsula.

The editorial concludes by warning that "excessive deployment of modern arms might stimulate North Korea's desire to develop nuclear weapons to overcome the gap in military capacity in a single blow."

Ministry Warns of U.S. Trade Retaliations

SK2104015794 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] Korea is threatened with trade retaliations from the United States over its decision to destroy sausage imported from there in February.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Economic Planning Board [EPB] yes-terday, the U.S. Meat Industry Trade Policy Council has recently filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Trade Representative calling for trade retaliations for Korea in connection with the sausage controversy.

EPB officials said the USTR will likely launch a full-scale probe into what American officials said are Korea's unfair trade practices.

Trade officials here expressed concern that the sausage issue may develop into a fresh trade dispute between Korea and the United States at a time when their bilateral trade relationship is liable to turn sour as a result of its growing dissatisfaction with Korea's closed automobile market.

If the USTR reaches a conclusion that Korea's action was unfair, it can take retaliatory action against Korea under the "Super 301" section reinstated last month.

The newest trade issue was prompted by Korea's Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, which ordered a halt to customs clearance of American sausage with the illegally-extended term of validity in early February this year.

The ministry also ordered 24 importers of American sausage, mostly chicken and turkey franks, to retrieve the already-marketed products from distribution outlets.

The ministry insisted that the American products had been heated and refrigerated and therefore they should be allowed only 30 days to be sold.

Under Korea's food sanitation rules, frozen sausage has an expiration date of 90 days from the day of production whereas heated and refrigerated products must be sold within 30 days.

But American meat processing firms as well as local importers reacted strongly to the ministry's decision, saying it is the Korean government's "arbitrary" application of their rules.

About 4,800 tons of American sausage worth 25 million dollars had been shipped in since 1990, having been allowed an expiration date of 90 days, before the ministry's February decision, which put on hold some one billion won worth of sausage at the port of Pusan.

EPB officials said the U.S. looks particularly unhappy with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs' sudden change in its application of rules without prior notice.

They said some USTR working-level officials have already visited Korea to lodge a formal protest, expressing concern that the incident may aggravate already-worsened trade relations with the U.S.

Intervention Planned in Dispute With U.S. Firms

SK2104022094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0146 GMT
21 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—The government is reportedly planning to enter a court dispute between Korean and American corporations over patent violation by presenting a brief of amicus curiae at the U.S. federal court to defend the rights of the Korean company.

When the Iljin Group files an appeal early next month against a ruling in favor of General Electric Co. by the federal court of Boston last January and its order of a seven-year halt to production of synthetic diamonds as well as immediate disposal of manufacturing equipment, the Foreign Ministry will attach a brief of amicus curiae, a ministry official said Thursday.

The case will be the first time that the government has gone all the way for a local firm in a foreign court.

"We hired a local lawyer to examine the U.S. federal court decision and decided to act against the parts we find unreasonable by explaining our side through a brief of amicus curiae," the official said.

A brief of amicus curiae is a form of legal advice given by a third party, such as the government or an economic body, advocating the rights of the concerned company from their country in its appeal in an international court dispute.

In its brief, the government will state that Iljin's technology was developed in a joint state project with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology and the Seoul National University Institute, and that the order to destroy even the manufacturing equipment is unjust.

Amicus curiae is relatively unknown in Korea, but its legal efficacy has frequently produced success in Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Britain, the official said.

He added that the ministry will work on various measures to protect the rights of Korean companies advancing overseas in an era of heated trade competition.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) will send a separate letter to GE's chairman asking the company to relent in its suit against Iljin.

No Timetable for DPRK Loggers' Repatriation

SK2004094594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0800 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—Full-fledged negotiations are under way with Moscow on bringing to South Korea those North Koreans who are roaming about Russia after having escaped from Pyongyang-run logging camps in Siberia, but the talks may have hit rough going. Repatriation is likely to occur much later than Seoul first expected, as the task is more difficult than generally anticipated here.

Chongwadae [presidential office] officials say it will be difficult to bring the North Korean escapees into the country before June because the government has yet to obtain correct information on their whereabouts and personal histories.

This is a far cry from Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu's remarks that some of the loggers could arrive this month as the government would complete repatriation formalities as soon as possible. Han made the comments upon his arrival from Russia on Monday.

But presidential spokesman Chu Ton-sik said Wednesday, "the government does not yet know where these North Koreans are now and what they are like. So it is unlikely that they will get to Seoul before June, though the government is seeking to bring them back as soon as possible."

Noting that while negotiations are under way with Russia about when repatriation should occur, he said no timetable has been agreed. This indicates that repatriation could take place later than generally expected, depending on how the talks with Moscow progress. He

made it clear, however, that the United Nations would not intercede in resettling the North Korea defector-loggers, saying the issue would be settled only through negotiations with Moscow.

The Foreign Ministry attributed Chu's remarks about a delay in repatriating the loggers to the difficulties facing the Korean Embassy in Moscow as it tackles the issue.

A ministry official said the embassy is having trouble determining the loggers' exact whereabouts and personal histories. There have been few reliable reports on them from the Embassy in Moscow, he added.

Some 90 North Korean loggers have visited the Embassy in Moscow and other South Korean diplomatic missions in former Soviet Republics to ask for refuge in South Korea, but it is difficult to maintain contact with them as they move from one hideout to another for fear of capture by North Korean agents.

For those granted permanent residence in Russia, it takes time to confirm whether they want to be repatriated to South Korea. In particular, those with Russian wives generally do not wish to come to South Korea. This being the case, working-level officials from the Foreign Ministry were somewhat surprised when Minister Han, upon arriving from Russia on Monday, told reporters the North Korean loggers would come as early as this month.

The government first sought to repatriate the North Korean loggers with the help of Russia and the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, but this policy has changed after Minister Han's Moscow visit.

The change was prompted by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's positive stance on the repatriation issue during his meeting with Han, ministry officials observed.

The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Embassy in Moscow to repatriate the loggers as soon as possible, raising speculation that the government is dealing with the issue in light of political considerations on domestic issues.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said the Russian Government had requested, through Seoul's Embassy in Moscow, that the South Korean media practice self-restraint in reporting on the repatriation issue. The government is not negotiating with Beijing on repatriating North Korean defectors in China but is focusing on the issue of North Koreans in Russia, he added.

EPB Official Views Inter-Korean Cooperation
SK1604032194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT
16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean economic cooperation will be limited to tourism and joint investment in such export-oriented industries as textiles

and footwear even after the ongoing nuclear dispute, the biggest hurdle to bilateral economic links, is solved peacefully, an Economic Planning Board (EPB) official said Friday.

Speaking at a meeting of lawmakers on the outlook for South-North economic cooperation, Pae Yong-sik, the deputy director general of the EPB's International Economic Policy Bureau, also said the North would likely open very limited parts of its territory such as the Rajin and Sonbong special economic district along the Tuman River in order to cut off the North Korean community from South Koreans.

Stressing the need to proceed slowly on Seoul-Pyongyang economic cooperation, Pae said, "a lot of things have to be considered for the Tuman River area development program, which needs more than 30 billion dollars in funding and coordination of the interests of concerned countries."

The EPB official noted that the Tuman River program should be treated as a multilateral project, not as one between Seoul and Pyongyang.

"It is desirable for the government to act as the sole agent for economic cooperation with the North in the initial stage to establish order," the official said, adding that private companies could later do business with the North on their own.

More Telecommunications Exports to Iran Sought
SK1704075294 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in
Korean 15 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Following the promotion of telecommunication cooperation between the ROK and Iran, the ROK may be able to export more time division exchanges [TDX] to Iran.

The ROK and Iran will hold the third meeting of the telecommunication cooperation committee for four days starting 20 April in Tehran, Iran to reinforce telecommunication cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the ROK plans to request Iran's support for ROK TDX companies' participation in biddings, propose a technical cooperation agreement, and recommend the exchange of information concerning policy on privatizing the telecommunication business.

Iran is considering a telecommunication network development project which requires a total of 3.6 million lines of switching facilities to be supplied from 1994 to 1996. Daewoo is considering participating in the international bidding for the TDX to be held in May.

Daewoo installed 18,000 lines of its TDX-1B in Hamadan, Iran in February 1992.

Mutual Assistance Treaties Signed With Canada
SK1604065994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT
16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Canada signed treaties on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters in Ottawa between justice ministers, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Canada agreed to waiver visa requirements to South Korean visitors who stay less than six months, the Ministry said.

The extradition treaty applies to criminals punishable by one or more years of imprisonment while the pact on mutual assistance allows exchange of information necessary for investigations.

South Korea now has extradition treaty with four countries and mutual assistance pact with three.

The visa waiver agreement may go into effect as early as next month, Ministry officials said.

Korea Reported Fourth in Steel Consumption
SK1604021394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT
16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The average Korean used 606 kilograms of steel last year, putting the country at No. 4 in the world, the Korea Iron and Steel Association (KOSA) said Saturday.

Per capita steel consumption rose 14.4 percent from 1992's 530 kg thanks to a business boom in the shipping and automobile industries.

Singapore, a major infrastructure investor, was top in per capita consumption with 1,260 kg, followed by Taiwan with 1,024 kg, Japan with 676 kg and then South Korea. North Korea weighed in with 328 kg.

Korea's steel output grew to 33 million tons last year from 1992's 28.1 million tons to elbow aside Ukraine for sixth place in the world rankings.

Japan was the No. 1 steelmaker with 99.6 million tons, trailed by China with 88.7 million tons, the United States with 87.1 million tons, Russia with 58.2 million tons and Germany with 37.6 million tons.

Automobile Production in First Quarter Reported
SK1604021494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT
16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Automakers rolled out some 552,000 motor vehicles in the first quarter, a 10.8-percent increase from the same period last year, Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry officials said Saturday.

In March alone 207,000 units were made, a 15.0-percent rise that marks the second largest monthly figure after last December.

Of all, cars produced in the three months totaled 161,000, up 12.9 percent, and commercial vehicles reached 46,000, up 22.8 percent. The sharp gain in the commercial vehicle production was largely helped by a recovery in construction activity, officials said.

Domestically 354,000 automobiles were sold, a rather moderate 7.2-percent increase, indicating that the economy, which previously showed signs of overheating, started to stabilize.

In the period, a record 161,000 automobiles were exported, up 18.1 percent, thanks to the yen's continued strength and strong sales in the U.S. market.

Of the exports, cars numbered 143,000, up 11.9 percent, and commercial autos 18,000, up 110.5 percent.

Minister on Appointment of Provincial Governor
SK1604035194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT
16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Home Affairs Minister Choe Hyong-u volunteered Saturday to clarify the background on the appointment of Pak Chung-pae, director-general of the Ministry's local administration bureau, as governor of South Chungchong Province.

Choe told a press conference that Pak was appointed after three opinion polls were conducted of provincial government officials and "young people," most of whom supported Pak.

"Pak, who is only a second grade government official, was selected as we believe that it is only right to appoint the governor the local people want," Choe said.

Some eyebrows were raised over Pak's appointment because of his rank. He replaces Pak Tae-kwon, one of President Kim Yong-sam's close associates, who resigned amid charges of illegal electioneering before the legal campaign period started.

"The new governor is a South Chungchong man who was born there and worked as a local government official for more than 20 years," Choe said. "He is second to none in his qualifications and ability."

Pak lagged behind in receiving a promotion because he had "no background (supporters)," Choe said, praising President Kim for selecting an able man for the post.

The government will continue to appoint low-ranking officials to high positions if they have the ability, Choe said.

Meanwhile, for the first time in administrative history, the government has named a woman mayor and chief of a city ward (ku).

Mrs. Chon Chae-hui, director-general of the Labor Ministry's vocational training bureau was appointed mayor of Kwanmyong city, Kyonggi Province. Mrs. Yi Hyon-hui, director-general of the Taegu city government's welfare bureau, was named chief of Taegu's South ward.

Burma

Bilateral Talks Held With Thai Foreign Minister

BK2104024594 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, and his delegation are paying an official visit to the Union of Burma at the invitation of His Excellency Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw from 19 to 20 April. During his visit, the foreign minister met and held talks with Burmese leaders such as Senior General [Sr. Gen.] Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; and Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw.

Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri is visiting Burma not only as the foreign minister of Thailand, but also as chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee. Thailand will host and chair the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers to be held in Bangkok in July.

The objectives of his visit are to hold discussions with Burmese leaders on bilateral relations between Thailand and Burma as well as cooperation in the Southeast Asian region.

Other major issues of discussion between the Thai foreign minister and the Burmese leaders were as follows:

Touching on relations between Burma and ASEAN, Sr. Gen. Than Shwe, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, and U Ohn Gyaw were pleased to hear from the Thai foreign minister that after his informal approaches other ASEAN member countries have shown no objection to Burma's participation as a guest of Thailand in the upcoming annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok. Sr. Gen. Than Shwe said that Burma wants to learn new experiences by participating in ASEAN activities and is willing to comply with correct ASEAN procedures. Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt reaffirmed that Burma will accept Thailand's invitation to participate in the ASEAN foreign ministers' annual meeting and will assign U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, to attend the gathering.

The Thai foreign minister informed the Burmese leaders that Burma's participation in the ASEAN meeting in Bangkok will bring representatives of the ten Southeast Asian countries—the six ASEAN members, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Burma—face to face for the first time in history, which is an important event and a good omen for the Southeast Asian region to move toward peace, stability, and economic prosperity. When that time comes, the next step is to highlight the significance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia or the Bali Treaty. With the participation of the two remaining nations—Burma and Cambodia—the treaty will become a noble symbol of regional cooperation. Burmese leaders have agreed to consider this matter further.

Regarding Thai-Burmese bilateral relations, the foreign minister said he has been following up all related developments since the meeting of the joint commission of the two countries in September 1993. He thanked Sr. Gen. Than Shwe for his cooperation in moving Thai inmates from various places to Rangoon so it is easier for Thai Embassy officials in Rangoon to visit them. He also asked the Burmese leaders to consider giving parole to Thai inmates on special occasions such as Burmese National Day or the Thai king's birthday. Sr. Gen. Than Shwe accepted his request in principle. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt disclosed that parole will be considered for Thai inmates after they are transferred to Rangoon prison. The foreign minister has instructed the Thai Embassy to follow up this matter closely.

Touching on the Salween River basin development project, the Burmese leaders informed the foreign minister that Burmese technical officials are still studying the Thai memorandum. As for the project to build a bridge across the Moei River, the Burmese side was informed that the Thai Government has set aside a budget for the construction of the bridge. The Burmese side accepted the foreign minister's proposal to have technicians of the two countries jointly consider the details of the project.

Regarding cooperation in narcotics suppression, the foreign minister and Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt agreed that Thailand and Burma should work together closely and make serious efforts in the suppression of narcotics.

Briefing the foreign minister on the situation in Burma, the Burmese leader said that the principle duties of the SLORC are to create national reconciliation and draft a constitution. They said the Burmese Government has made much progress in its endeavors to achieve national reconciliation and successfully encouraged 10 out of the 14 minority groups in Burma to participate in the drafting of the constitution. Three additional minority groups have agreed to take part in writing the charter. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt himself went to talk with the Karen. The Burmese Government attaches highest significance to the tasks of creating national reconciliation and drafting the constitution and will be ready for other undertakings after these two targets have been achieved.

In addition to making personal acquaintances, the meetings between the foreign minister and the Burmese leaders have helped increase mutual trust which will benefit peace and stability. These are the basic conditions for social and economic development in Southeast Asia.

Thai Foreign Minister, Delegation End Visit

BK2104033594 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A Thai delegation led by Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, Thai foreign minister and chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee, which has been in Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, minister of

foreign affairs of the Union of Myanmar, left by special aircraft today. The delegation was seen off at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe, responsible personnel from the Foreign Ministry, Thai Ambassador Wirasak Futrakun, and embassy officials.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Laos, SRV

BK2104070994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0430 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] U Nyunt Swe, deputy foreign minister, has left for Vietnam and Laos by air yesterday evening to pay a goodwill visit at the invitation of Mr. Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister of Vietnam and Mr. Thongsavat Bouppha, deputy foreign minister of Laos.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe was seen off at the airport by U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister; responsible officials from the Foreign Minister; Mr. Kideng Thammavong, Lao ambassador to Myanmar [Burma]; and Mr. Tran Viet Tan, whose appointment as Vietnamese ambassador to Myanmar has been agreed upon.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Businessmen To Join Czech Privatization Program

BK2104012294 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysian businessmen have been invited to participate in Czech enormous privatization program and join the republic's companies to invest in third countries. Czech Foreign Affairs Minister Josef Zieleniec told newsmen in Kuala Lumpur that foreign investments are welcome in the former communist country which had in 1990 initiated a market-oriented outlook. He pointed out that there is [words indistinct] in his country's privatization program. He said this after attending a seminar on business opportunities in the Czech Republic.

Earlier, the seminar had been told that at least 80 percent of the state enterprises would be privatized in the near future from 65 percent or 22,000 enterprises now.

Thai Prime Minister Arrives for One-Day Visit

BK2104085294 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a day-long working visit. He is accompanied by a 30-member delegation, including Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and Deputy Industry Minister Phonthepe Techaphaibun.

Mr. Chuan was scheduled to hold talks this morning with Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at the prime minister's office. The Thai premier will officiate together with Dr. Mahathir the opening of the headquarters of the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Authority in the afternoon. The authority was mooted in 1979 to jointly explore and exploit nonliving natural resources, particularly oil and gas, in the overlapping seas in the Gulf of Thailand.

Mahathir, Thai Prime Minister Launch MTJA

BK2104100894 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the successful launch of Malaysia-Thailand Joint Authority [MTJA], marks another milestone in the bonds of traditional friendship between the two neighboring countries. The arrangement for cooperation in exploration and exploitation of the resources of the seabed in the joint development area is one of the few of its kind in the world. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this in a message in conjunction with the launching of the MTJA in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Datuk Mahathir said good neighborly relations and understanding had been the prime mover in resolving the overlapping claims made by Malaysia and Thailand. He was confident that the activities to be undertaken by MTJA would contribute towards the development of the petroleum industry in Malaysia and Thailand.

Russian Proposal for Summit on Bosnia Discussed

BK2004154294 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia hopes that countries sending soldiers to the United Nations Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be invited to an international summit on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was proposed by Russia. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said it would be improper for the summit to be attended only by certain countries. He also called for the summit to be immediately convened because time is running out. He said Malaysia may show a positive attitude and hopes that a settlement will be achieved although it is not so sure about the matter. He was commenting on reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton had welcomed President Boris Yeltsin's proposal that a summit on Bosnia-Herzegovina be held.

Meanwhile, the International Parliamentary Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina [IPGB] has urged Muslim nations and the Third World to consider immediate concrete steps to protect that country and its people. Mr. Kassim Ahmad, member of the IPGB Secretariat, said the latest developments—the attack by Serbian terrorists on the town of Gorazde—proves that the United Nations no longer serves as an effective and authoritative international organization that can maintain the security of its member nations. In a statement in Penang today, he said

the IPGB fully supported Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's statement that the United Nations had failed and colluded with the Serbian terrorists in their efforts to capture Gorazde and impose a partial and unfair peace plan on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Cambodia

Ranariddh To Seek U.S. Aid for Border Roads

[Editorial Report] The 5 Mar 94 REAKSMEI KAMPU-CHEA on pages 1 and 11 reported on First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh's "recent" trip to Mondolkiri Province. The prince is quoted as saying "it is not right for Cambodian provincial governors to have to ask Vietnamese permission to transit [SRV] territory...we should be able to travel...on our own territory." He pledged that the government would build a road "as soon as possible" from Memot [Kompong Cham Province] and Snuol [Kratie Province] into Mondolkiri and Ratanakiri Provinces. He said assistance for this would be sought from the United States and "other friendly countries."

The article noted that what roads there are in north-eastern Cambodia have sustained war damage and are still mined. Ranariddh said that construction of "strategic roads along borders" would facilitate border defense and security. He concluded by saying that "if we cannot build these roads, we cannot resettle people" in the border areas.

KR 'Secret Letter' Warns Sihanouk To Leave

*BK2104075294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT
21 Apr 94*

[Text] PHNOM PENH, April 21 (AFP)—Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk said Thursday that the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge [KR] had warned him to leave the country for his own safety ahead of a nationwide terrorist campaign.

"His Excellency Khieu Samphan requested that if I want to avoid accidents or danger I should get out of the country as soon as possible," the king told reporters at the capital's Royal Palace.

The king said he received a "secret letter" from Khieu Samphan late Wednesday in which the guerrilla leader warned that the "Khmer Rouge would provoke turmoil in the whole country, including Phnom Penh."

The king said he was advised not to wait for a private plane but to take a commercial flight to Bangkok. Khieu Samphan requested that the king not divulge the contents of the letter, he said.

"But I cannot be quiet," he said.

"I have to tell Khieu Samphan through (state-run) television and radio that I will not run. Ever since I was young I never ran from danger."

The king said he was scheduled to leave for Beijing in June to undergo further treatment for cancer.

"But even if I am sick in June and there is turmoil in the kingdom created by the Khmer Rouge, I will not go," he said.

The king pledged to remain with his people in times of trouble.

"I will never leave my people," he said.

A government official, however, dismissed the guerrilla warning as "political bluff."

The king went on to say that the government's proposed move to formally outlaw the Khmer Rouge did not concern him.

"It's a matter for the Royal Government to decide," he said, adding: "The king reigns but does not govern."

Co-Premier Hun Sen told AFP Wednesday that the government had already drafted a law to outlaw the radical faction and would present it to parliament Monday.

The king also said it was also up to the government to decide whether to evict the Khmer Rouge representatives from their compound in the capital.

Another government official, however, said the king supported the move to outlaw the guerrillas.

"The king does not want to do anything to jeopardise the peace process. But the Khmer Rouge have got on his nerves," the official said.

Paper: Cabinet 'May Be Reshuffled Very Soon'

BK2104072294 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] According to an unofficial source, the Royal Government of Cambodia may be reshuffled very soon. These changes would affect the ministries of economy and finance, foreign affairs and international cooperation, and interior and national security.

Another source has revealed that these changes will not affect the role of any current cabinet ministers. In other words, this reshuffle only involves moving officials from one ministry to another. In this process, an official, who is currently a minister, could be taken away from a ministry and made a deputy prime minister. A few weeks ago there were rumors that Sam Rangsi, currently minister of economy and finance, would be promoted while Chak Sarik, currently governor of Kandal Province, would replace Sam Rangsi.

An official who requested anonymity has disclosed that the Ministry of Interior and National Security may be split into two, namely the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Interior. However, this plan is still under consideration. It has not been decided yet which

officials from what party would be in charge of what ministry. Yu Hokkri [currently co-minister of interior and national security] could be transferred to another ministry and another official, also from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], would be in charge of the Interior Ministry or the National Security Ministry and could also have the rank of deputy prime minister.

These sources add that the planned reshuffle is not the result of conflict in the cabinet but is just a rearrangement of leading leaders to suit their respective expertise and competence.

* CPP Paper Supports Ranariddh's View of Democracy

[Editorial Report] The "Political Viewpoint" column on pages 1,2 of the 27 Feb 94 PRACHEACHON carries a 700-word article entitled "What To Do To Get Real Democracy." The author, Im Sonchearea, somments that democracy is not simply the right of freedom of expression, a free press, or freedom to stage demonstrations. Nor is it something that can be imported from abroad and applied 100 percent in Cambodia. The writer views democracy as tied to the availability of employment and says that each country must create democracy by itself.

The author sees as "very correct" First Prime Minister Ranariddh's "recent" comments in which he said that "Democracy is not just the freedom of expression, but also rests on [people] being educated, happy, and proper attention being paid to avoiding cleavages between rich and poor." The author comments that if the gap between haves and have-nots is large, true democracy will not exist for long. True democracies abroad do not merely have freedom of expression, but also a gap between rich and poor "that does not keep growing." The writer says that in Cambodia "if this gap continues, it will be impossible to stamp out corruption, people's happiness will certainly be threatened... and democracy will be simply a matter of lip service."

National Assembly To Resume Meeting 25 Apr

*BK2104091294 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI
KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Apr 94 pp 1, 2*

[Text] According to sources at the National Assembly office, the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia will resume its first legislature's second session on 25 April following the cheerless conclusion of the session on 5 April.

The 5 April session was closed at noon on the same day following the conflict of views among some Assembly members concerning the use of some words in the agenda. These members argued that it was inappropriate to use those words. Finally, the session withdrew some of

the items from its agenda, and the meeting was closed. Some public opinions have criticized the 5 April session as futile.

At the upcoming 25 April session, it is expected that there will be five items on the agenda. The first item is the election of new people's representatives; the second, the discussion and adoption of bills and proposed laws concerning the Supreme Council of Judges; the third, the discussion and adoption of the 1994-95 socio-economic plan; the fourth, the setting up of a special commission to provide advice and to improve the National Assembly's internal regulations; and the fifth, the discussion and adoption of a draft on the structure of the National Assembly's secretariat. However, the same sources have affirmed that the agenda could be altered by the time the session is convened because some other important issues are being considered for inclusion in the agenda by the National Assembly. A high-ranking official in the National Assembly has disclosed that the Khmer Rouge issue may be also be put on the agenda of this session so that the entire National Assembly can discuss and decide whether to outlaw the Khmer Rouge or not.

It is expected that apart from the election of new people's representatives, the Khmer Rouge issue could be an important item for this session. However, sources at the National Assembly office have not been absolutely clear about the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge issue into the agenda.

This session will elect 19 new people's representatives, including 13 from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and six from the Cambodian People's Party. These new people's representatives will replace the 19 who are carrying out public functions that are incompatible with the role of people's representatives. This issue was deadlocked at the 5 April session over a question of wording.

It was remembered at that session that the National Assembly's Standing Committee used the words "invalidity of people's representative status." These words were criticized by some Assembly members as inappropriate for outgoing Assembly members.

At this coming session, the wording is "election of new people's representatives." A National Assembly official expresses his optimism that the election of new people's representatives at this session could be done and not deadlocked as in the previous meeting; the only thing that is not yet known for certain is how the Assembly will do this and through which method, whether to do this individually or collectively.

Indonesia

Jakarta To Import U.S. Rice To Meet GATT Rules

BK2104094794 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia is prepared to import 10,000 tons of high-quality rice from the U.S. under the

GSM [expansion unknown]-102 credit guarantee program, Minister of Food Ibrahim Hasan says.

Ibrahim told a meeting of editors and reporters here yesterday that the imported rice, due to its fine quality, would not threaten local rice producers.

"This has been approved by President Suharto and a memorandum of understanding will soon be signed between the governments of the two countries," Ibrahim said.

He said the imported rice would likely only be sold at top-rated restaurants and hotels and wouldn't prevent Indonesians from continuing to consume the inferior locally-produced rice.

Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Indonesia is actually required to import as much as three percent of its domestic consumption of some 20 million tons of rice.

He said the world market supply was only about 12 million tons of rice or about four percent of the world output, while Indonesia's domestic rice production reached 25 million tons a year.

"The world rice market is dominated by the U.S., Vietnam, and Thailand who supply 60 to 70 percent of the world market," Ibrahim said.

He, therefore, saw the plan to buy 10,000 tons of rice from the U.S. as an effective way of meeting GATT rules.

Ibrahim said the GSM-10 will guarantee U.S. \$200 million in loans for U.S. agricultural exports to Indonesia such as rice, soybeans, cotton, and meat. "The loans will mature within three years and the interest will not exceed 3 percent," he said.

"We are also proposing to import about 75,000 tons of soybeans," he said.

Ibrahim added that the imports would also benefit Indonesia in terms of soft-loan financing.

Iraqi House Speaker Continues Official Visit

Enlists Suharto's Help on Sanctions

BK2104092494 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Iraqi Government has requested the Indonesian Government, which is a fellow member of the Organization of Islamic Conference and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to help end the UN economic sanctions against that country. The sanctions are considered to be causing severe hardship to the Iraqi people.

The request was presented by a delegation of Iraqi parliamentarians led by its speaker, Sa'di Mahdi, to President Suharto at the Merdeka Palace this morning. During the meeting, the Iraqi speaker was accompanied

by his Indonesian counterpart, Wahono. Speaking to reporters later, Wahono said President Suharto had given a positive response to the request and promised to help end the sanctions.

Meets Indonesian Counterparts

JN2104081494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Talks between an Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and an Indonesian parliamentary delegation led by the deputy parliament speaker for international parliamentary relations began in Jakarta today.

The talks dealt with ways to bolster bilateral relations in a way that would serve the common interests of both friendly peoples. Salih asserted that Iraq had implemented all resolutions imposed by the Security Council, particularly Resolution 687. This should prompt the Security Council to fulfill its commitments toward Iraq, according to Paragraph 22 of this resolution. This paragraph provides for lifting the embargo on Iraqi exports, Salih added. [words indistinct] reviewed the [words indistinct] imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of denying them food and medicine.

The head of the Indonesian side to the talks voiced the Indonesian people's support for the Iraqi people in facing the unfair blockade imposed on them. He also expressed hope that the blockade will be lifted as soon as possible.

Salih arrived in Jakarta from the Philippines today on an official visit to Indonesia lasting several days at the invitation of the Indonesian Parliament.

Reportage Continues on Regional Civil Unrests

Medan Rioters Use Communist Tactics

BK2104051894 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] After analyzing available data on the violent riots in Medan, North Sumatra, authorities have reached the conclusion that the rioters tended to employ tactics used by former PKI [Indonesian Communist Party] members and that the riots were masterminded by a group of individuals who called themselves SBSI [Indonesian Prosperous Labor Union].

Lieutenant General Mantiri, chief of general staff of the Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI], said ABRI has never recognized the SBSI because its legal existence is not recognized by the government. Therefore, ABRI will take strong action against anyone involved in the destruction and looting of property without fear or favor and in accordance with existing laws.

Commenting on rumors that racist violence and riots also took place in various parts of Jakarta, Lt. Gen. Mantiri said the rumors were not true. The rumors may

have been deliberately spread by irresponsible elements to create anxiety among the public.

Sporadic Strikes Continue

BK2004082894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] JAKARTA, April 20 (AFP)—Sporadic strikes continued outside the Sumatran city of Medan on Wednesday, but emotions in the city appeared calmer as it remained quiet into the afternoon following a day of anti-ethnic Chinese rioting.

Potential trouble-makers may have been discouraged by what witnesses said was an extremely heavy security presence throughout the city.

"Security in Medan appears to be under control (but) many laborers are still refusing to return to work," said Alamsyah Hamdani, a lawyer for the Medan chapter of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH).

Hamdani, speaking by telephone from Medan, said his office had received reports that hundreds of workers were still refusing to return to work and had gathered outside their factory in nearby Binjai town despite efforts by local security personnel to disperse them.

He said many workers at the Industrial Zone of Medan, north of the city, had also refused to work, idling their factories.

"It seems like most of the factories there have not reopened yet," Hamdani said.

Another LBH lawyer, Hasbi Ansori, said strikes were also continuing to the east of Medan in Tanjung Morawa town, although shops were reopening under tight security after violent protests there Tuesday.

Witnesses said the strikes outside Medan did not appear to have an anti-Chinese element, and were aimed only at backing continued demands for better pay and working conditions [word indistinct] right to organize independent trade unions.

In Medan, a retailer confirmed that many shopping centers, independent shops and supermarkets in the downtown area had reopened under tight security after hurriedly closing down Tuesday when a mob looted a major shopping mall owned by a prominent ethnic-Chinese businessman, Tanoto Sukanto.

Hamdani said that there had been several other incidents Tuesday besides the attack on Sukanto's downtown Thamrin Plaza, which involved between 1,000 and 2,000 people armed with machetes, iron picks and other weapons.

Witnesses said the riot was contained only after security forces sealed off the area. Other shops and offices throughout the area closed.

Medan had just quieted down from anti-Chinese riots which followed a mass workers' demonstrations Thursday and Friday and degenerated into violence, leaving one ethnic Chinese businessman dead and scores of Chinese-owned businesses sacked.

There is widespread resentment in parts of Indonesia against the country's wealthy ethnic Chinese minority, which constitutes only three percent of the population but controls a disproportionate share of economic activity.

Anti-Chinese pamphlets that first appeared during Thursday's mass protest alleged that ethnic Chinese were accumulating wealth to the detriment of other Indonesians, and were still in circulation, witnesses said.

'Medan Returned to Normal'

OW2004143194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1411 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, April 20 KYODO—Economic activity in the north Sumatra provincial capital of Medan returned to normal Wednesday [20 April] after nearly a week of anti-Chinese and labor-related riots, a police source told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The spokesman for North Sumatra's Police Headquarters, Lt. Col. Leo Sukardi, said in Medan, 1400 kilometers northwest of Jakarta, that shops and supermarkets closed during the riots have reopened, and no further protests have occurred.

The situation is calm and residents are not afraid to go out any more, Leo said.

Students have already gone back to school, although many rumors have been spread by parties that there will be other protest rallies.

Meanwhile in Jakarta, rumors have spread that there were demonstrations, following those in Medan, in some areas of Jakarta such as Glodok, Tanjung Priok, Pasar Baru and Tomang, where many Chinese descendants live.

But Jakarta's military commander, Maj. Gen. Hendro Priyono, called on Jakarta's residents to remain calm and not react to mere rumors.

"Jakarta is safe," Hendro told reporters.

Chief of Staff Denies Curfew in Jakarta

BK2004132694 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Speaking to newsmen in Jakarta this evening, Indonesian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General H.B.L. Mantiri reiterated that there is no curfew being imposed in Jakarta. He also denied news reports which say Jakarta is under curfew.

He said that the commander of the Greater Jakarta Military Region Command did not issue any statement

declaring Jakarta under curfew. Lt. Gen. Mantiri calls on the people not to be trapped by unfounded rumors, which are spreading in several towns throughout the country.

The Information unit of the Greater Jakarta Military Region Command also reiterated that there is no curfew in Jakarta. In a telephone conversation to RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] this evening, the information official said that the military region command did not declare Jakarta and its surrounding area to be under curfew.

He said that the Jakarta Coordinating Agency for National Stability only is carrying out an anticrime operation against youths who are gathering without any purpose and consuming liquor. The 1994 anticrime operation, launched on 11 April, also allows for searches of those people carrying firearms and sharp objects that may scare the people. The anticrime operation is not only carried out at night, but also in the morning and at noon.

Laos

Malaysian Prime Minister Holds News Conference

BK2104014994 Vientiane KPL in English 0805 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—A press conference on the outcome of the visit by a high level government delegation of Malaysia to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] was held on April 18 at the Government Guest House in Vientiane for Lao and Malaysian journalists.

At the press conference, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed said that the visit was successful and helped the delegation better understand about Laos.

He said during his meeting with Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral cooperation, and on exchange of delegations at various levels between the two countries. The sides also agreed that it was necessary to improve the post and communication link in the Lao PDR. The sides also discussed the possibility of Malaysian investment in the Lao PDR and other issues concerning the strengthening of the bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Malaysian prime minister also answered to many questions of the journalists.

Malaysian Ambassador to the Lao PDR Abdul Wahab B. Harun was also present at the press conference.

Foreign Minister Comments on Mahathir's Visit

BK2104013294 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Press report by Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat on the "success" of the official visit to Laos by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed—recorded]

[Text] This is the first visit to Laos by the Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed. It is also the first visit by a Malaysian prime minister since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Laos and Malaysia. The visit is crowded with success. The prime ministers of the two countries discussed various issues. The two sides agreed to increase the exchanges of delegations at all levels and of all branches of service. The Malaysian side is pleased to render assistance to Laos in training our Lao officials. Part of the training assistance is directly provided by the Malaysian Government and the other is given in the form of funds from a third country.

The two prime ministers also discussed the promotion of investment. A seminar on investment in Laos was also organized during the visit. In addition, an agreement on repayment was signed between the national banks of Laos and Malaysia. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the electrical companies of the two countries. Various issues on the bilateral relations were also discussed, and following the discussion, the two sides agreed to step up cooperation in the fields of aviation and tourism. They agreed to assign the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation committees of the two countries to hold consultations and study possible means of cooperation. The two prime ministers are of the view that we have maintained sufficient conditions to promote and expand cooperation in all fields.

Trade Minister Leaves for Visit to Vietnam

BK2004101894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] On the morning of 19 April, a delegation of the Trade Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Trade Minister Sompadit Volasan left for a friendship visit to the SRV. The visit is scheduled for seven days. The trade ministry delegations of the two countries are scheduled to hold discussions during the visit and exchange experiences on trade relations, cross-border goods import, and trade principles, including border trade activities, that will serve as the basis for the bilateral trade ties.

Organization Board Delegation Leaves for SRV

BK2104013994 Vientiane KPL in English 0750 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—A delegation of the Organisation Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary

Party Central Committee led by its head Thongsing Thammavong, Party CC [Central Committee] Politburo member, yesterday left here for Hanoi on an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The visit, which is to last ten days, was made at the invitation of the Organisation Board of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. The Lao delegation will meet with its Vietnamese counterpart to discuss and share experiences concerning organisational affairs and party cadre training at the new stage.

Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Thongsavat Khaikhampithoun, Party CC member, head of the Party CC Office; and senior officials of the Organisation Board. Vietnamese Ambassador to Laos Bui Van Thanh was also present.

Philippines

Ramos Meets Visiting Iraqi Assembly Speaker

JN2004164994 *Baghdad INA* in English 1350 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Manila, Apr 20, INA—Philippines President, Fidel Ramos received here today the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Mr Salih presented President Ramos with a detailed description of Iraq's abidance with the Security Council's resolutions and the need for the Security Council to immediately fulfill its obligations toward Iraq according to Article 22 of Resolution 687 by lifting the embargo imposed against Iraq.

Mr Salih also reviewed the negative consequences which the Iraq people are suffering from as a result of the continued four years embargo imposed against it.

For his part, President Ramos expressed pleasure over the visit of the Iraqi delegation's and requested the Speaker of the Philippines parliament to work out along with the Iraqi delegation a way by which Iraq could be helped to overcome the hardship. He also expressed hope the Iraq was able to overcome the effects of the aggression affirming his government's intention to promote relations between the two friendly countries.

At the end of the meeting, President Ramos requested Mr Salih to convey his and the Philippines peoples best wishes to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

Citizens Association Lobbies Against GATT

BK1904132894 *Quezon City MALAYA* in English 7 Apr 94 p 2

[By D'Jay Lazaro]

[Text] The Pambansang Ugnayan ng Mamamayan Laban sa GATT [National Association of Citizens

Against GATT] (PUMALAG) yesterday vowed to actively lobby against the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) treaty which will be submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Rafael Mariano, Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas [Peasants Movement of the Philippines] (KMP) chair, and spokesman of PUMALAG, which has 45 member organizations nationwide, said the group will hold an anti-GATT summit to hear crystallize public opinion on the effects of GATT.

Mariano said millions of small peasants and fisherfolk nationwide will mark this coming 15 April, when representatives from various governments around the world convene in Marrakesh, Morocco for the GATT signing, as an "International Day of Protest."

The ratification of GATT, Mariano said, would cut across such issues as social equity, food security, agricultural production, trading and pricing, and environmental protection and development.

"The Ramos Government's Medium Term Agricultural Program is attuned with the GATT in its thrust to liberalize agricultural imports which will put Filipino farm produce in an unfair competition with relatively cheaper imports," he said.

Senate Ratifies Tax Treaties with Spain, India

BK2104081594 *Manila MANILA STANDARD* in English 13 Apr 94 p 6

[By Joem H. Macaspac]

[Text] The country is now officially bound by two tax treaties with India and Spain, Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said.

Guingona said the Philippine Senate, the country's treaty-ratifying body, has already given its concurrence to two conventions entered into by the Ramos government with the two countries.

The agreements involve the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of "fiscal evasion" with respect to taxes and income.

The Senate's concurrence was contained in Resolution Nos. 69 and 70, which were passed by the Senate before it adjourned for the Lenten season, Guingona said.

The RP [Republic of the Philippines]-Spain Convention and the RP-India Convention were entered into and signed by the respective representatives of the two governments in Manila on 14 March 1989 and 12 February 1990, respectively.

Then President Corazon C. Aquino signed the Instrument of Ratification and forwarded the Conventions to the Senate pursuant to Section 21 of Article VII of the

Constitution requiring the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the Senate before any international agreement or treaty becomes valid.

Among the salient features of the RP-Spain Convention are: —In the Philippines, only income tax applies, whereas in Spain, the coverage includes income tax on individuals and corporate tax;

—Provisions of taxation of income from dividends, interests and royalties given preferential rates of tax which are designed to stimulate the flow of investments into the country;

—With respect to personal service income, the Convention gives the country of residence the primary right to tax the same while giving the country where the services are rendered mere shares in the revenues under certain conditions; and

—Provision of a mutual agreement procedure on administrative remedies in resolving difficulties in the interpretation of the tax provisions; an exchange of information provision aimed at facilitating cooperation between the two countries in the assessment or collection of, enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes to which the Convention applies.

On the other hand, the RP-India Convention's highlights include:

—In the Philippines, only income tax applies while in India, the coverage includes income tax, wage tax, company tax and dividend tax;

—Provisions on taxation of income from dividends, interests and royalties give preferential rates of tax which are designed to stimulate the flow of investments into the country;

—With respect to personal services income, the country of residence is given the primary right to tax the same while the country where the services were rendered are given mere shares in the revenues under certain conditions; and

—It stipulates a mutual agreement procedure on administrative remedies in resolving difficulties in the interpretation of tax provisions; and an exchange program provision aimed at facilitating cooperation between the two countries in the assessment and collection of, enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes to which the Convention applies.

Ministers Agree on Asia-Pacific Economic Agenda
BK2004124594 Manila *BUSINESS WORLD* in English
8 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Increasing cross-border flows of goods, services, and investments is a key to keeping the Asia-Pacific region economically strong.

This, reported Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo to President Ramos, was one of the conclusions reached at the recent Asia-Pacific Finance Ministers' meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In a two-page report, Mr. de Ocampo said he told his APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] colleagues, the Philippines is ready to contribute to the growth of the Asia-Pacific region, even as it is currently "positioned for a takeoff." The finance chief likewise reported he had "most enlightening" discussions with representatives of Chile, Mexico, and Thailand. Among the items discussed was the implementation of the value added tax. These countries, Mr. de Ocampo noted, benefited from an expanded coverage of the said taxation scheme.

"All these countries have reaped the benefits of tax reform and the broadening of their respective value-added tax systems," he said.

Other points discussed in the meeting and agreed upon were the need to maintain sound economic policies and stability as a foundation for sustained, low inflation growth in the region; the importance of having the private sector continue to be the primary engine of growth; the need to further develop capital markets for effective mobilization and allocation of capital; and, the necessity of improving the capacity to finance infrastructure development in order to address current shortages and inefficiencies.

Moreover, during the meeting, the Philippine panel—composed of Mr. de Ocampo, Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong, Philippine Consul General in Honolulu Solita Aguirre, and special assistant Gabriel Lim stressed the urgency of arriving at an early conclusion to the ongoing discussions on a 100 percent capital increase for the Asian Development Bank, and the need to look more closely at and to accommodate other models of development particularly those reflected in the recent World Bank study on East Asia.

He also stressed on the need to continue supporting small and medium-scale enterprises.

Investment Agreement Signed With South Korea
BK2104011594 Manila *PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER* in English 8 Apr 94 p 17

[By Corrie S. Narisma]

[Text] The Philippines and South Korea yesterday signed an investment guarantee agreement aimed at bolstering the entry of more Korean investors into the country.

The agreement, concluded after 13 years of negotiations, seeks to address the concerns of Koreans investing for the first time in the Philippines. It contains provisions on the settling of commercial disputes, the right of investors to remit investments or profits, and protection from expropriation.

Officials of the Board of Investments said the accord also grants national treatment status to Korean investments,

but within the bounds of existing Philippine laws, such as, foreign ownership restriction on land and exploitation of natural resources.

The officials said that this status means that whatever laws or policies on local investors will also be applicable to Korean businessmen.

Although substantial investments from South Korea had been coming in even without the investment agreement, Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro said the pact is still important particularly for new Korean investors.

"Many brand-name Korean companies relocated their export-oriented plants here without the agreement, but the small and medium Korean companies who are investing overseas for the first time need this because they are unfamiliar with operations abroad," Navarro pointed out.

The Koreans are ranked sixth biggest foreign investors in the Philippines during the past five years, accounting for P4.34 billion [Philippine pesos] or 5 percent of the total foreign equity of P94 billion infused during the period.

Among the biggest Korean companies already operating here are STC Corp., Amkor/Anam, Pohang Steel, Ssangyong Corp., Dong Corp., Lucky-Goldstar, Samsung Corp., Kia Motor, Hyundai, and Daewoo Corp.

Telecommunications Firm Joins Global Cable Link

BK2104074894 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Apr 94 p 20

[Text] The Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) has announced its participation in the strategic Fiber-optic Link Around the Globe (Flag) cable system.

The digital fiber-optic cable system will span the Pacific Rim, the Middle East, and Europe.

Construction and maintenance of the major cable system will begin in June 1994 and will be completed by the end of 1996. It will cost \$1 billion.

ETPI General Manager Antonio M. Urera said the firm's participation in the global cable system will enhance its capabilities to bring state-of-the-art telecommunications to the country.

It will also expand its international gateway facility (IGF), the country's second which started operations in 1990. ETPI's IGF is the subject of a Supreme Court case filed by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is opposing the firm's entry into the lucrative gateway service.

Talks of an out-of-court pact between the two parties have been initiated, but these have stalled as PLDT has taken a contrary position.

ETPI also operates one of the world's largest cable stations—the Currimao Cable Landing Station in Ilocos Norte—as well as cable systems to Okinawa, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Flag will link Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy, Gibraltar, and the United Kingdom.

Participants in Flag have been nominated as the key representatives of the telecommunications industry in their countries.

Other members of the Flag cable consortium include International Digital Corp. of Japan, Korea Telecoms, Hong Kong Telecom, Telekom Malaysia, Communications Authority of Thailand, PT Indosat of Indonesia, VTN of India, SaudiTel, ETISALAT of UAE, GenTel Cairo of Egypt, ItalCable of Italy, and MCL of the UK.

Libya, Pakistan Said To Aid Radical Muslims

BK2104070094 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 15 Apr 94 p 5

[Text] Security officials in the Ramos administration yesterday expressed serious concern and alarm over the emergence of radical Muslim extremist groups in Mindanao that are involved in various criminal activities.

Acting Defense Secretary Feliciano Gacis, who briefed the 29-member National Security Council (NSC) on the internal security and peace and order situation, said the radical Muslim extremist groups "pose an immediate threat" to the security and stability in southern Philippines. [sentence as published]

These groups, like the Abu Sayaff group, are giving military and police authorities more problems than the Muslim secessionist guerrillas because of their propensity to violence, terrorism, kidnapping and other criminal activities in pursuit of their objectives."

Several international Islamic organizations, particularly those based in Libya and Pakistan are suspected to be providing financial support to these groups which are attempting to establish an Islamic society in the country.

Apart from these radical Muslim extremist groups, Gacis also pointed out the rising criminality in southern Philippines which is largely fueled by Muslim separatist guerrillas who are turning themselves into bandits.

Commonly called "lost commands," Gacis said these groups are also classified as threat to the peace and order in predominantly Muslim areas in Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

These groups carry out various lawless activities, like piracy, hold-up, robberies, extortion, illegal logging, and kidnap-for-ransom.

Apart from internal security threats, which Gacis claimed to be fast diminishing because of government's

efforts to address the root causes of rebellion, crime and other lawlessness, members of the Ramos Cabinet also briefed the NSC about the status of the government's reform programs in both political and economic fields, the assessment of the impact of the oil price increase, and the country's security concerns in East Asia, particularly on the South China Sea area and the Korean peninsula.

On the political and economic reforms, Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona claimed "the country is now poised for take-off" because most of the economic and political reforms have been put in place.

The economic reforms, Guingona explained, are designed to level the playing field, promote global competitiveness and make opportunities available to everyone in a fair and equitable manner.

Among the major measures the government has done to implement these economic reforms were liberalizing the financial sector, deregulating the transport and communications sector, and reforming fiscal management, power sector, investment and trade, agriculture, infrastructure, and environmental and natural resources.

In the political field, Guingona enumerated the government's gains in the peace process, peace and order, devolution and implementation of the local government code and the redirection of the foreign policy toward economic diplomacy.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, for his part, outlined the country's position on the growing tension in the Korean peninsula over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons development.

Killing of Former NPA Leader Analyzed
BK2104015294 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Apr 94 p 22

[By Wilma N. Yamzon]

[Text] The admission of the killing of former rebel official Leopoldo Mabilangan alias "Ka [Comrade] Hector," by a leader of the Melito Glor Command of the New People's Army (NPA) confirmed that the Netherlands-based National Democratic Front (NDF) has lost its control over the communist movement in the Philippines, political analysts said.

They added that not only did the pronouncement by NPA leader Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal clear the government of any involvement in the killing, but also showed that the Ramos Administration is serious and sincere in pursuing a lasting peace in the country.

The Melito Glor Command under "Ka Roger" claimed responsibility for the assassination of "Ka Hector" over the weekend, saying that the former NPA leader had "sinned against the people."

But former NDF leader Satur Ocampo said the admission of the killing must be checked first "before pointing an accusing finger to the NPA."

At the same time, Senate President Edgardo Angara urged the government to continue the investigation of the death of "Ka Hector" to find the truth behind the assassination of Mabilangan.

Lawyer Jose Malvar Villegas, spokesman for Region 4 (Southern Tagalog) of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP [Lakas ng Bansa—Power of the Nation-National Union of Christian Democrats; UMDP—expansion unknown], said the success of Ka Hector in bringing back his former comrades' confidence in the government through the putting up of cooperatives showed the NPA's support is waning among the people in Southern Tagalog region.

"The growth of cooperatives in Laguna, Batangas, and Quezon through Ka Hector's initiative was a big blow to the communist movement in those provinces," Villegas said.

He contended that if Mabilangan was killed because of his "crimes against the people," he should have been slain even before he surrendered to the government.

"But the fact that he was killed just now, indicated that Ka Hector was assassinated because the NPA was alarmed by the successful inroads he was making among the people and rebel comrades through his cooperative movement in the provinces," Villegas said.

Rebel Group Supports New Armed Forces Chief
BK2104063094 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Apr 94 p 12

[By Sandra S. Aguinaldo]

[Text] The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) yesterday voiced support for newly appointed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile, saying he is "better than most" officials.

Cashiered Army Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan, Capt. Danilo Lim, Lt. Col. Jake Malajacan, and Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig said Mr. Enrile was a good replacement for Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

The former army chief assumed the post the other day in a turnover ceremony attended by President Ramos, Vice President Joseph Estrada, and former President Corazon Aquino. At the command conference held immediately after the formal turnover of duties, Mr. Enrile said he gave orders on how to enhance "professionalism and unity" in the military ranks.

With a new batch of promoted officers set to assume roles in the armed forces following the retirement of 19 generals this year and the attrition of at least 42 younger officers, the RAM-SFP-YOU urged soldiers to "reinvent

themselves by going to the lower rank and file and make unpopular decisions that could make a difference in the future."

"If Mr. Enrile can make unpopular decisions, then we will be very happy," Mr. Honasan said.

The reform group also said it was "beyond Mr. Abadia" to determine if factionalism still exists in the military organization.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Abadia included the unification of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as one of his achievements as chief of staff for the last three years.

The president also said the military is now more unified and professional because of Mr. Abadia's efforts.

Mr. Lim, spokesperson of the RAM-SFP-YOU, said Mr. Ramos might be referring to other groups when he said the age of "adventurism" is over. "We are not mere adventurists, that is why we are still here. Maybe the president was not referring to us," he said.

At the same time, Mr. Maligalig said the government panel headed by Prof. Alfredo Tadiar is "in constant touch with the group (RAM)." He added, both panels are now in the process of exchanging position papers. The committees on electoral reforms, military reforms, economic reforms, social justice, and good government maintain open communication, he said.

In another development, Jose Maria Sison, head of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has expressed support to the decision of the Melito Glor Command headed by Gregorio "Ka [Comrade] Roger" Rosal to execute Leopoldo Mabilangan, as the former leader of the Banahaw Command was "afforded due process under the justice system of the people's revolutionary government."

Mr. Rosal recently said a "people's court" found Mr. Mabilangan guilty of crimes punishable by death and that he was invited to attend proceedings several times last year.

In a faxed statement, Mr. Sison also said the Melito Glor Command has the authority to "take the necessary action when confronted with any hostile subject who is armed and dangerous."

"Mabilangan was clearly an armed agent of the Ramos regime and the reactionary armed forces," Mr. Sison said, in an attempt to justify the killing of the former NPA [New People's Army] leader who openly voiced out support to the government's amnesty program.

Mr. Mabilangan was killed noon of Easter Sunday in front of Sto. Tomas Church in Batangas. He was buried yesterday by thousands of followers. No untoward incident occurred even as police investigators have yet to make concrete progress in arresting his assailants.

MILF Implicated in Kidnapping of Engineer

BK2004133394 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 8 Apr 94 p 2

[By Beth Castillo]

[Text] Cotabato City—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had been implicated in the abduction of an engineer from Manila who was kidnapped two weeks ago while lodging at a government-run hotel inside the campus of the Mindanao State University [MSU] in Marawi City.

As this developed, the Cotabato City Peace and Order Council (CCPOC) had urged higher authorities to investigate on the alleged involvement of some policemen and military personnel in the spate of the "unabated" kidnappings here since 1990.

Reports reaching here said, in Marawi City, authorities on Wednesday received a letter purportedly coming from the abductors of Arceo Cruz, 66, who was snatched last 29 March by armed men in his cottage at the Ayala Resort, a hotel located inside the 2,500 hectare MSU campus.

The letter, written in an MILF official stationery, stated a P50 million [Philippine pesos] ransom demand in exchange for the freedom of Cruz, who is supervising the implementation of a road project linking two towns in Lanao del Sur.

Among those who signed the same letter were known criminals facing warrants of arrest: Commander Dimas, the group's leader; Sulaiman Marohombsar; Ibra "Brix" Cabugatan; Omar Usman; Linog Sultan; Michael Capal; Saide Caya, and Commander Mujahid.

The kidnappers also included in their demands the implementation of regular infrastructure projects under the 1993 "seed money" of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao [ARMM]; a performance audit of the ARMM particularly in Lanao del Sur; the "enforcement" of a standing truce between the government and Moro rebels; and the placement of qualified Muslims in the government.

Police reports said the letter was personally handed by Assemblyman Benasing Macarambon of ARMM to Brig. Gen. Samuel Dunque, chief of the Army's 102d Brigade in Marawi City.

It was not however, specified how Macarambon got hold of the ransom letter. Cruz is believed kept by his captors at Unayan area, a remote place bordering the towns of Ganasi, Malabang, and Kalanugas, all in Lanao del Sur's 2d district.

"Even if we sell our souls together, still we cannot raise the P50 million," said Ernesto Chinjen, 55, brother-in-law of Cruz, who he said was not even a well-known contractor until the time of his abduction.

"We cannot do something either with their (kidnappers) political demands," he said. "Only the national leaders and the ARMM authorities can do something about it."

Mayor Macrina Pangandaman, who is among those negotiating for the safe release of Cruz, said the kidnappers' demand is equivalent to the total cost of the road project the victim was constructing.

Chief Supt. Mangigin Magomnang, ARMM regional police director, said the police and the military have issued instructions not to give the kidnappers anything as it would set a bad precedent and would encourage more kidnappings in the area.

Thailand

Prime Minister Chuan Leaves for Malaysia

BK2104074394 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation left for Malaysia this morning. He will hold official discussions with the Malaysian prime minister and co-chair the signing of the agreement between the PTT Exploration and Production Company and Petronas Carigali Company, the Malaysian national oil company, on the project involving the joint development of a Thai-Malaysian border area.

Draft Note on ASEAN-PRC Committee Approved

BK2104124794 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Thailand has approved a draft note of exchange for the setting up of two ASEAN-Sino joint committees. The cabinet yesterday assigned Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to entrust the ASEAN secretary general to the note of exchange on behalf of ASEAN. [sentence as heard]

Under the draft note of exchange, the two joint committees comprise government officials of ASEAN and China. The Economic and Trade Joint Committee will be under the co-chairmanship of the chairman of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting and a senior Chinese official of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and International Trade. The Scientific and Technological Joint Committee will be under the co-chairmanship of the chairman of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology and the deputy minister of the Chinese National Scientific and Technological Board. The two joint committees will hold consultations between ASEAN and China to promote understanding and cooperation between them. Their consultations will be held following an equality basis and must not affect relations between ASEAN members and China.

Chuan Calls AFP Reportage 'Danger' to Nation

BK2104045994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Apr 94 p A 4

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday charged that "inaccurate reports" from the French news agency Agence France Presse (AFP) on the fighting in Cambodia were a "danger" to Thailand.

He also warned Thai media which subscribe to the agency to be careful about publishing AFP reports from Phnom Penh, saying they might contain "inaccurate" information.

Speaking after attending a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC), Chuan said he had checked with the Thai military and the Cambodian government in Phnom Penh about the fighting around Pailin.

The information he received reconfirmed Thailand's neutrality on the conflict, Chuan said, adding that Thailand wants to see peace in Cambodia and did not want to involve itself in the country's affairs.

He said Cambodia's accusations of Thai support of the Khmer Rouge were not true.

Chuan said the National Security Council has cautioned the Thai media about publishing reports by AFP from Phnom Penh. He said the French news agency has been repeatedly warned that its reports often contained "inaccurate" information which could pose a "danger" to Thailand.

Thai media sometimes publish information from AFP without crediting the source and include it in news reports as if it were fact, thus hurting the country, he said.

Phnom Penh leaders have repeatedly accused Thailand of abetting the Khmer Rouge forces in their military offensives against the Cambodian government.

Prime Minister Chuan said the National Security Council is considering measures to be taken, as Thailand has never retaliated against accusations by Phnom Penh regarding its losses in the fighting. He said the Thai Foreign Ministry is gathering information and will report to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, NSC Chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit has warned Phnom Penh that Thailand's patience is running out on the Cambodian allegations. He said Phnom Penh should communicate with the Thai government directly and not use other people to pass on messages.

He said he was surprised that Cambodia did not use the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh to communicate with the Thai government.

"We can communicate through the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh as we are both sovereign states. I am very surprised that the Cambodian government has never contacted the Thai government through that channel,

but always used other people's mouths in sending messages. I can't believe it, because the government of a sovereign state should speak directly to us," said Charan.

He said Thailand had always been very patient about events along the Thai-Cambodian border despite the fact that local people and schools were badly affected by the fighting.

Burma To Attend ASEAN Conference as 'Guest'

BK2104050594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Apr 94 p A 5

[Text] Burma will attend the 27th Asean Meeting to be held in Bangkok in July as the guest of Thailand, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry press release said Burmese military junta leaders Gen Than Shwe and Lt Gen Khin Nyunt had informed Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri that Burma would attend the meeting.

Prasong yesterday completed an official two-day visit to Rangoon in his capacity as Thai foreign minister and chairman of Asean's standing committee.

During the visit, Prasong paid a courtesy call on the two generals. Gen Than Shwe is chairman and Lt Gen Khin Nyunt is secretary general of Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

According to the press release, Gen Than Shwe informed Prasong that Burma was willing to join the activities of the six-member Asean grouping but it would require a period of time to become familiar with how the organization works.

"Burma's participation in Asean will certainly be good for the country," he said. Burmese Foreign Minister U Ong Gyaw will represent Rangoon in the annual meeting during which Asean members will hold discussions with their dialogue partners, including the United States, Canada and South Korea.

On his return to Bangkok, Prasong said he told the Burmese leaders their country's participation in the meeting would mark the first time all ten countries in the Southeast Asia region had joined the forum. Laos and Vietnam will join as observers and Cambodia as the guest of Asean.

Prasong told reporters in Bangkok that Burma had agreed to show leniency to Thais jailed there by allowing those jailed in other provinces to be transferred to a Rangoon prison. The consolidation of the Thais into one central prison will facilitate visits and care provided by Thai embassy officials.

"Khin Nyunt informed me that Burmese authorities would consider sentence reductions and provide pardons on a case-by-case basis. At present there are about 3,000 Thais in Burmese prisons," Prasong said.

The two countries also agreed to cooperate more closely in the suppression of drug trafficking, he said.

National Security Council Reviews Cambodia Issue

BK2004152394 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai today chaired a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) during which the Cambodian problem was discussed. The prime minister questioned officials concerned about the accusations that Thailand supports the Khmer Rouge. Representatives of the Armed Forces reaffirmed that the Armed Forces has a policy of not giving any support to the Khmer Rouge. Investigations showed that the accusations were relayed by AFP in Phnom Penh, which often carries news against Thailand. The prime minister said that the Thai Government's policy toward Cambodia remains unchanged and Thailand will continue to provide humanitarian aid for Cambodia. Thailand, however, will explain all the facts to the UN.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Will we inform the UN about Thailand's difficult position?

[Chuan] If they cause us damage, the Foreign Ministry will be instructed to collect information and give an explanation to the UN. [end recording]

General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council, said that it is strange that the Cambodian Government made accusations against Thailand without first seeking clarification since both governments maintain good relations. General Charan is also not sure whether the accusations were really made by the Cambodian prime minister. He said that the limit for the Thai Government's patience is determined by the people and the mass media.

Border Officials Turn Back Cambodian Traders

BK2104051394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] About 500 Cambodian traders were forced to return to Poipet township by Thai authorities yesterday after they tried to get to the Thai market in the Klongluek-Poipet area of this border town.

Klongluek-Poipet border point, inside Thailand, where thousands of traders from both countries meet to trade mostly Thai goods to Cambodia—was closed by Thai authorities two weeks ago after artillery shells from Cambodia landed on Thai territory.

None of the Cambodian warring factions has claimed responsibility or paid damages.

The Cambodian traders told Thai authorities they were informed by Cambodian officials that the border was open and they were allowed to trade in Thailand.

They said they had paid a fee of 10 baht each to Cambodian officials to get a border pass.

The 500 Cambodian traders, after being told of the situation, decided to return after two hours, according to the report.

One trader, Linda Ree, 18, who trades in silverware along the border, said she had been happy with the news the border was open.

She has rented a small stall at the border point in Thailand where Thai people still owe her about 4,000 baht. She wants to get the money, said Miss Linda.

She said that following the border closure, the Poipet market place had been quiet. All kinds of goods from Thailand have been soaring in price and the people are suffering.

In a related report, the Committee for Controlling Trade along the Thai-Cambodian border said they would meet on April 25 to discuss the border opening.

Measures to protect Thai people along the border and their property need to be discussed with the Cambodian Government before the border is opened, said the report.

There is also a need to discuss the two countries' trading systems at the local level before the border can be reopened, expected early next month.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Protests U.S. Firm's Oil Search

BK2004134594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Creston Energy Company of Colorado, USA, issued a press release on 18 April 1994, announcing that it is conducting a seismological survey and preparing for exploratory drilling to evaluate the latent oil and gas potential of the so-called WANANBEI-21 Contract area which is, in fact, the Tu Chinh coral reef located entirely within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

The press release also stated that the exploration cited above and the potential commercial exploitation plan for that area will be a continuation of the history of China's research and exploration in that sea area, which began since time immemorial, as far back as 200 years B.C.

In view of this matter, a spokesman for the SRV Foreign Ministry gave the following remarks on 20 April:

Right from the time when the Creston Company signed a contract on oil exploration and exploitation with the Chinese Offshore Oil Company in May 1992, the SRV Foreign Ministry issued a statement declaring that this contract is invalid and that it constitutes a grave violation against Vietnam's sovereignty over its continental

shelf and economic zone as well as against international law. The statement also pointed out that according to international law, Vietnam has long exercised its sovereignty over that area. As early as before 1975, this area was divided into lots for bidding to conduct oil and gas exploration and exploitation. The then Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam also issued a statement asserting its sovereignty. After the unification of the country, the SRV Government issued its statements dated 12 May 1977 and 12 November 1984, asserting Vietnam's sovereignty over its territorial seas and continental shelves. In 1988, the Vietnamese side made public a chart of concession lots divided for oil exploration and exploitation purposes. Vietnam has since conducted exploration and exploitation of its oil and gas resources in that area, including its cooperation with many foreign companies. As decided by the SRV Government, an economic, scientific, and service detachment has been established there since 1989 with the presence of a system of Vietnamese lighthouses and a hydro-meteorological station.

A seismological survey by the Creston Company and its arrogant declaration of its planned oil exploration and exploitation in the area within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf—an area which is, both legally and practically, totally under Vietnamese sovereignty—constitutes a new, very grave step of escalation.

The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry once again asserted that the contract of the Creston Company is invalid. Its actions are illegal. No countries or companies will be allowed to conduct any exploration or exploitation of natural resources within Vietnam's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone without permission from the Vietnamese Government. The Creston Company will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from its actions.

Czech Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Holds News Conference

BK2104014194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zeleniec held a press conference in Hanoi before leaving for Hue and Ho Chi Minh City. Here is our report.

It is the first visit to Vietnam by the Czech foreign minister, and the foreign minister of an Eastern European country since the disintegration of the Eastern European countries. Foreign Minister Josef Zeleniec spoke to newsmen about the significance and objectives of his visit to Vietnam.

[Begin Zeleniec recording in English] Now I finish the third day of my visit in Vietnam. We feel that this is an important visit for the Czech Republic. I have met my colleague Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Minister of Trade Le Van Triet. I have met Prime

Minister Vo Van Kiet and President and Speaker of Parliament Nong Duc Manh. These were useful and important talks for us. You know that the Czech Republic has traditional contact with Vietnam. There are many people here in Vietnam who know us, who speak our language, who study in my country. And there are also quite a considerable number of people in my country who know very well of Vietnam. This is a good basis for mutual relations. There were big changes in both countries in the last years. It is important to find new conditions, new ways for cooperation. It is important to find new contact for economic and trade cooperation. This is the reason for which we discussed especially economic programs. We discussed the whole set of treaty which is needed for proper cooperation between our business communities. We discussed also political issues. We exchanged views on developments in both countries. We discussed also our views on the issues connected with discussion about human rights and other issues. I think this visit shows that relations between my country and Vietnam has very big potential, and it is possible to continue traditional intensive contact and good cooperation, also after changes in my country and in Vietnam. [end recording]

On the first day in Hanoi, the Czech businessmen attended the Vietnam-Czech economic seminar held in Hanoi by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Czech Embassy. Foreign Minister Zieleniec attended the seminar. Both Czech and Vietnamese businessmen discovered great possibilities for economic and trade cooperation. Mr. Rudolf Baranic, president of the Association of Czech Businessmen said:

[Begin (Baranic) recording in Czech fading into English translation] The balance of trade between Czech and Vietnam has reduced over the last few years due to main changes in the Czech Republic. Czech's export to Vietnam has been reduced by half, and Vietnam's export to Czech reduced by one fourth. However, there are possibilities to further improve the trade balance between the two countries. Most interesting is that almost all those who are involved in export activities to the Czech Republic were Vietnamese who had studied and worked in the country. There are many Vietnamese who know the Czech language. It is an advantage in cooperative relations between the two countries. [end recording]

At the press conference in Hanoi, the Czech foreign minister also said that he was not the first high-ranking Czech official to visit Vietnam. A delegation of the Czech minister and trade and industry, and a parliamentary delegation have visited Vietnam. The Czech minister of labor also plans to Vietnam and is expected to sign an important agreement on labor cooperation between the two countries. The Czech Republic will continue helping Vietnam in education and personnel training. As with previous delegations, the Czech delegation discussed the completion of a trade agreement

between the two countries, and agreement on investment guarantee and promotion, and the agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

Tours Southern Province, Departs

BK2104132794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Accepting an invitation from SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his wife, Czech Republic Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and his wife paid an official visit to Vietnam from 16 to 19 April. Accompanying Foreign Minister Zieleniec were several high-ranking officials of the Czech Foreign Ministry and the Industrial and Commercial Ministry, as well as many businessmen.

During their stay, Minister Zieleniec and his entourage were cordially received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his wife also warmly received and entertained Minister Zieleniec, his wife, and the visiting guests.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam welcomed and highly evaluated the first official visit to Vietnam by the Czech foreign minister. He considered it a new and important development step in preserving and consolidating the time-honored friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. He stated that in the new situation, the two sides should work out an appropriate and efficient cooperative form to fully exploit the potential and advantages of each country in order to quickly strengthen and accelerate the multilateral relations between Vietnam and the Czech Republic. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam expressed his sincere and profound appreciation to the Governments and peoples of the former Czechoslovakia and the current Czech Republic for their precious support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in our undertaking of national protection and construction and for efficient help in training a large contingent of technical cadres and skilled workers.

Minister Zieleniec expressed joy at his chance to visit Vietnam, a country of courageous and hospitable people who are close to the Czech Republic residents and have fine traditional relations. He welcomed prominent achievements scored by the Vietnamese people in their renovation cause and in their foreign affairs. These achievements have heightened the role and position of Vietnam in the region and in the world and they are creating favorable preconditions for the two countries to further develop relations in all fields, beginning with economic and commercial relations.

Minister Zieleniec held official talks with Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and they were pleased to realize that SRV-Czech relations have made encouraging development steps. They exchanged views on directions and measures to accelerate cooperation between the two

countries and Foreign Ministries. They also exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual concern.

Minister Zieleniec held a working session with Commerce Minister Le Van Triet. They exchanged measures to accelerate commercial relations between the two countries and prepared for the signing of a new commercial agreement between Vietnam and the Czech Republic.

On 17 April, Minister Zieleniec, his wife, and his entourage left Hanoi for a visit to the southern provinces. Seeing the delegation off at the Government Guest House were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his wife, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, many high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry, and representatives of other government organs.

Before leaving Hanoi, Minister Zieleniec held a press conference in which he expressed joy at the successful visit to Vietnam. He thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for their wholehearted and solemn reception.

Minister Zieleniec also delivered opening speeches at an economic seminar held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City for French and Vietnamese businessmen by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. His delegation also visited several economic, cultural, and educational establishments in Hanoi, the ancient capital of Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City. On the morning of 19 April, Minister Zieleniec and his entourage left Ho Chi Minh City, successfully ending his official visit to our country. His Excellency (Jakaha), charge d'affairs of the Czech Republic in Vietnam took part in all the activities of the visiting delegation.

Vo Van Kiet Receives New Israeli Ambassador

BK2104033194 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon newly-accredited ambassador of Israel to Vietnam Mr. David Matnai.

Speaking to his guest, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his admiration at the Israel people who has brought their economy to the modern level in some fields and said that although the diplomatic relation between the two countries was newly established, Vietnam and Israel have already got the basis of mutual confidence to promote the cooperation. He said he hoped that the relations would be further expanded in many fields, especially in trade, industry, agriculture, public health and that is not only the cooperation of mutual benefits but also the mutual assistance so as to develop together for the prosperity of each country.

For his part, Ambassador David Matnai expressed his honour to be the first Israeli ambassador to Vietnam and pledged that he would do his best to make contributions

to development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Israel.

The Israeli ambassador stressed that for a long time, the leadership of the Israeli Government has paid much attention to the development of the friendship and cooperation with Vietnam. He wished to develop the friendship cooperation and assistance, first of all, in the fields of industry, agriculture, public health, and even the transfer of know-how and expert exchanges.

On this occasion, prime minister asked the ambassador to convey his best regards to Israeli leaders.

Indian Prime Minister Meets Assembly Delegation

BK2104161194 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April [dateline as received]—A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by its Chairman Nong Duc Manh on an official visit to India called on Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in New Delhi today.

During their meeting, Prime Minister N. Rao spoke highly of the great achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their cause of renovation and expressed his confidence that in the coming time, Vietnam would obtain greater successes. He affirmed that the traditional relations between India and Vietnam would constantly develop.

The Indian prime minister also expressed his thanks to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for inviting him to visit Vietnam and said that the Indian Government was preparing for the visit. On his part, Chairman Nong Duc Manh was of the same view with Prime Minister N. Rao i.e. it was necessary to constantly strengthen the two countries' fine relationship. These ties, he stressed, had been fostered by the late Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh and the late prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. He was confident that the relations between Vietnam and India would entered into a new development stage.

On the same day, Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his party called on the historical site of Raj Ghat, the upper and lower houses and paid a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Central Committee Secretary Hong Ha Visits PRC

BK2004092794 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Hong Ha, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has paid a working visit to China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

While talking in Beijing on April 18 with Dinh Quan Gen, Politburo member and secretary of the CPC Central Committee, he expressed his pleasure to visit China and witness the achievements recorded by the Chinese people in their open-door reform. Speaking of the results of the implementation of the resolutions of the CPV's mid-term conference and of the Vietnamese party's foreign policy, he stressed that the Vietnamese party and people attach importance to the promotion of their friendship and cooperation with China as well as the relation between the two governments in the interest of the two peoples for peace, cooperation and development in the region.

For his part, Mr. Dinh Quan Gen highly valued the big successes of the Vietnamese people in their renovation processes under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and expressed his belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and countries would further develop. The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual concern and discussed measures to step up the ties between the two parties.

President Le Duc Anh To Visit Indonesia 'Shortly'

BK2004021294 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—President Le Duc Anh and his wife will pay an official friendship visit to Indonesia shortly as guest of Indonesian President Suharto, says an announcement released here today by Vietnam's Foreign Ministry.

Radio Supports CPP's Move To 'Outlaw' KR

BK2104014894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Station Commentary]

[Text] According to the news agency of AFP, Cambodian MPs affiliated to the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] have proposed the elimination of Khmer Rouge [KR] from the peace process and the closing down of their representative office in Phnom Penh. The Cambodian People's Party occupies 51 seats of the total of 120 seats in the Cambodian Parliament. Here is our radio editor's opinion.

The Cambodian People's Party members of parliament's proposal to move the Khmer Rouge representatives out of Phnom Penh was put forth after the Khmer Rouge refused to take part in the ceasefire during the traditional new year festival, as proposed by Prime Ministers Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen last week.

The MPs are now preparing the draft law on the issue to be submitted to the coming parliament meeting in order to officially remove the Khmer Rouge from the peace

process and to outlaw the rebellious section. Vice Premier and Minister of Home Affairs in the Cambodian Royal Government Mr. Sar Kheng, told AFP that King Sihanouk approved the proposal to isolate the Khmer Rouge. The king was reportedly disappointed when the Khmer Rouge refused to cease fire. Mr. Sar Kheng is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cambodian People's Party.

Reality shows that the Khmer Rouge always run counter to the Cambodian peace process. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, the faction not only refused to implement the commitment, but always tried to undermine the process. They refused to participate in the elections, and take part in any solutions put forth by the Cambodian Royal Government. While Cambodian people concentrate on national reconstruction, the Khmer Rouge conduct repeated sabotage activities.

The world still remembers the Khmer Rouge as extremely barbarous criminals against their own people when they were in power in the seventies. Since the restoration of peace in Cambodia, the faction has committed many massacres against their own nation and Vietnamese residents in the country. The Khmer Rouge's refusal to cease fire during the Cambodian new year festival once again proves their war-like nature. That is why the proposal to oust the Khmer Rouge from the peace process and from Phnom Penh will meet the aspirations of the Cambodian people.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Leaders of Quang Tri Province

BK1504140094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] In Hanoi on the morning of 13 April, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a working session with the core leaders of Quang Tri Province to discuss a number of socioeconomic issues of the province.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed special concern on the socioeconomic programs that Quang Tri going to carry out in the period to come. He recommended that for the hilly areas of the province, the local authority should work out a comprehensive plan to cover with greenery and other industrial plants for over 20,000 hectares of bare hills and empty lands, in conjunction with plans to reallocate the population and resolve its infrastructure issues.

The prime minister urged the leaders to consider thoroughly and select wisely the plants to grow on suitable land, to create rich forest with high-industrial-value plants and trees, thus efficiently utilizing the assistance of the government in forms of capital, plant species, and purchase of products.

Apart from the local labor force, provincial leaders should motivate the contributions from the immigrants who came to resettle in the province, so that the uplands

areas would grow quickly out of poverty and hunger, and the plains areas would also see their residents' living standards improve.

The settled life and settled farming program for mountain areas should be completed quickly according to a detailed plan with concrete objectives and fixed time schedule, so that the bad practice of slash-and-burn farming could be eliminated in parallel with an improvement in living standards of minority ethnic people.

For the people living along the coast, in addition to development of the catch, rearing, and processing of aquatic products, the local authority should set up concrete economic development plans for every village located in the area of 30,000 hectares of sandy land along the coast, to ensure an ever-improving life for both the people fishing offshore and those who work inland.

In plain areas, the leaders should strive to bring production opportunity to each family living in safe and stable areas. To the areas where production activities are not stable, alternate species planting should be considered as a measure to avoid harsh weather conditions.

In terms of industry, the prime minister maintained that the leaders should firmly grasp contents of the industrialization process for Quang Tri Province so that the process would be carried out steadily and suitably, thus creating conditions for the transformation from the present agro-forestry to the agro-industry economic structure in a near future. The province should strive to develop early its industry, especially processing industry and construction material production at small and medium scales, utilizing modern technology obtained with assistance of foreign partners.

The prime minister also reminded leaders of Quang Tri to strive for better implementation of reallocation plans for people in Dong Ha and Khe Sanh Route No. 9 so that the locations would be able to become commercial and tourist attractions of the province. The task of developing cultural, social, medical, and education activities should also receive appropriate concern and care from leaders. Families of war dead and social pension recipients should be cared for since the people of Quang Tri are those who suffer the most heavy consequences in all aspects of the war.

Do Muoi Makes Visit to Provinces

BK2104090494 Hanoi VNA in English 0643 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—General Secretary Do Muoi of the Communist Party of Vietnam has paid a working visit to the central Vietnam Provinces of Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan to inspect the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th

party congress and the party's national mid-term conference, and examine their socio-economic development.

During the visit, General Secretary Do Muoi had working sessions with the provincial party committees, and met with representatives of a number of local party committees and agricultural cooperatives. He toured state-run, collective and private enterprises, science research institutions, airports, ports, irrigation facilities including the Quao River irrigation works, one of the five key irrigation works in Vietnam at present.

Speaking at these meetings, General Secretary Do Muoi hailed the great efforts made by the authorities and people in these provinces to overcome difficulties, ensure political security and social order, and stabilize their administrative organization. He spoke highly of the encouraging achievements recorded by the local people in socio-economic development, thus improving their daily life and contributing to the common success in the country's renovation cause.

After analysing the great potentials in forestry, agriculture, marine products and tourism as well as favourable conditions of the provinces, Mr. Do Muoi proposed some major measures on socio-economic development in the provinces, namely gradual industrialization of agriculture, introduction of biological technology to agriculture production to increase the quality and quantity of farm produce, and the effective exploitation of forests. He stressed that the local authorities and people should focus on the development of industry, particularly processing industry, marine economy and tourism.

Seminar on 'Peaceful Evolution' Held in Thai Binh

BK1504155194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent Duc Toan informed that Thai Binh Province recently held a seminar on fighting against peaceful evolution strategy of hostile forces, which is an important content of the present national defense education program.

Attending the seminar were representatives of the party organization; military command; youth federation; and provincial, district, and village branches of the war veterans association of Thai Binh.

A total of eight dissertations were delivered at the seminar reflecting the situation of political security and social order, along with the various forms of the fight against peaceful evolution, which have already been taken by the party sections, sectors, and mass organizations in Thai Binh. The local armed forces, the education office, the culture and information office were exemplary units who have taken practical and effective measures in propaganda and national defense education against peaceful evolution.

Speaking at the seminar, Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the Political General Department, praised officials of Thai Binh for initiating the policy and measures in the national defense education. Confronted with the wicked plot of the enemy, the cadres,

party members, and people of Thai Binh need to heighten their sense of vigilance and further develop the initial outcome of the national defense education, to be able to counter in a timely manner all maneuvers of the peaceful evolution plot of the hostile forces towards Vietnam's revolution.